



PHOTO BY AMY SNYDER

## TENANT GROUPS TAKE TO THE STREETS

by Jeannie Heltzel

The Mission exploded in a series of demonstrations held at various locations during November that were engineered to draw attention to landlord greed and negligence. Protesters and organizers targeted two ongoing landlord-tenant problems: evictions and vacancy decontrol and the rent strike at 540 Capp Street.

All three of the boisterous and well-attended pickets were organized by St. Peter's Housing Committee, the Housing Committee at Old St. Mary's, the San Francisco Tenants' Union and the Gray Panthers.

November 2, 1990

Demonstrators transformed the quiet area behind an elementary school at Shotwell and 22nd Streets into a noisy arena for denouncing landlord abuse and city government inaction with chants and calls in English and Spanish.

About 30 protesters turned out to support Eleanor Gaffney in her fight against eviction from her home of 11 years. Her landlord, Antonio Artiga informed the 62-year-old teacher's aide the week before that he intended to move in to her studio, which she currently rents for \$245 a month. Gaffney turned to St. Peter's for help and vows to battle Artiga and do whatever she can to aid the movement for much-needed policy changes to protect tenants.

Tenant advocates say this is clearly an attempt by Artiga to jump through a gaping loophole in the rent control law adopted by the City in 1979. The law provides that, when a unit is vacated, the owner may raise the rent to market rates, effectively wiping out the intent of rent control restrictions. But the vacancy exemption goes on step further to tenants' disadvantage: owners may also ask tenants to leave buildings of four or fewer units so that they or a family member can live there. Owners must in-

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## THE BOOT

After ten years, the North Mission Association, along with over a dozen small businesses and community service organizations, are being booted out of the California Savings Building at the corner of 16th and Mission Street. The new owners of the property, a Hong Kong investment syndicate, have expressed interest in renovating the elderly structure as luxury office suites, an ambition that has both tenants and financial experts scratching their heads.

"I think the owner's out-of-touch with the neighborhood," said Jim Carrier, a California Savings official and former

manager of its Mission Branch. "Maybe all they know comes from a picture in a real-estate portfolio."

The listed owner is Tim Shing Chan of Hong Kong who may or may not have been in San Francisco since purchasing 3004 about four years ago. Several soon-to-be evicted tenants have attempted to contact him, unsuccessfully. Mr. Chan's attorney, Robert Yee of Oakland, sent the thirty day notices to tenants in early November, mandating a December 5th eviction date.

"I thought that was especially nasty,"

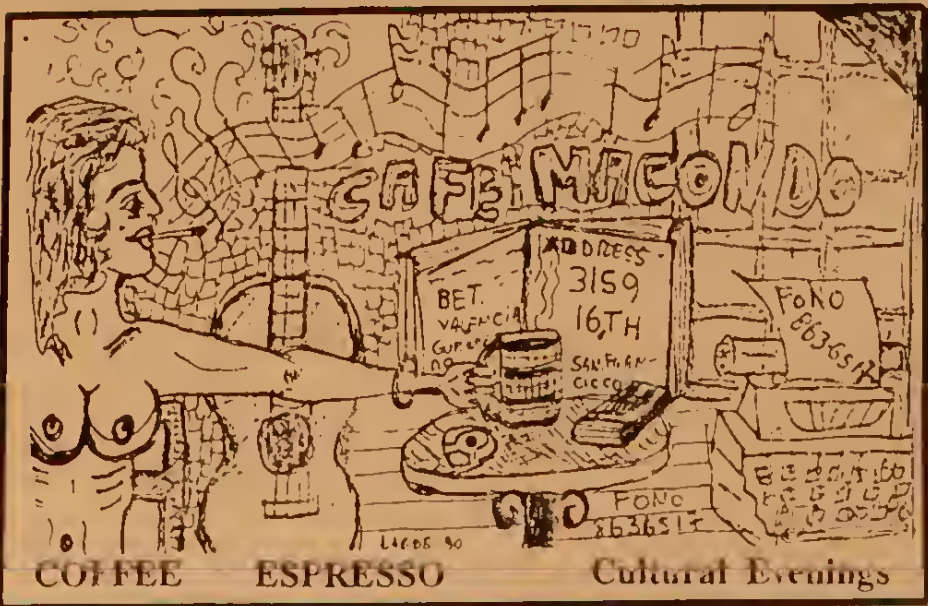
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# Tenants

Cont. from Page 1

notably angrier, louder and more organized than last week. Organizers with bullhorns rallied picketers to shout chants directed at Keystone and landlord greed in general in support of rent-striking tenants at 540 Capp Street.

On the 16th, demonstrators topped previous pickets with their biggest turnout and attention-grabbing tactics yet, beating pots

then Keystone, which has managed the building for the last 4 months and has been given the responsibility for carrying out the agreed repairs, targeted selected residents with 3-day notices for eviction, according to a leader of the tenants' union, Gustavo Raygoza. Raygoza believes Keystone chose tenants most likely to give in to such pressure tactics, weakening the tenants' base of support within the building. Seven left the strike, bringing the union down to 15 ten-

are already starting to fall apart. The windows won't close, there are no locks on some of the outside doors, the carpet is falling apart..." among many other things, says tenant Raygoza. "They haven't honored our agreement."

But Peter Illing of Keystone Management, who oversees 540 Capp Street, disagrees that conditions are unusually bad. "Our responsibility entails the overall management of the property in a healthful and well-maintained condition. The conditions at 540 Capp Street are nothing out-of-the-ordinary."

When asked why he believes the tenants are angry, Illing replied, "Because they are afraid to start paying the rent they've contracted to pay. Organization is their right and privilege. But we've already spent \$50,000 cleaning up problems there. Where is it going to stop? We're not obligated to be their interior decorators. You move in, what you see is what you get."

As for the owner, whom I tried to contact... unsuccessfully... there are varying reports. According to Myrna Melgar, Willis is the central problem in this ongoing dispute.

Peter Illing sees it differently. "She's been pressured, intimidated and cajoled" by tenants, he says. "there are going to be legal problems, and she's saddled with burden."

The 540 Capp Street tenants' union, represented by Marilyn Kalman of Bayside Legal Advocates, has filed a \$10 million lawsuit against Willis and Keystone for negligence and mismanagement.

Kalman says that Willis has been taken to court in the past for similar problems, and lost. "She's learning very expensive lessons, and we're confident that she's going to have to pay the price for abusing her tenants again," warned Kalman.

Meanwhile, organizers hope to make the Friday afternoon pickets a weekly event in order to generate more publicity and, eventually, a decisive city government response to the perennial problems.

PHOTO BY GEMMA



and pans rhythmically to angry chants in front of the very building which has been at the center of their efforts.

On both days, protesters condemned Keystone for ignoring the terms of a contract between tenants and the owner of 54 Capp Street. According to the agreement, arranged in negotiations between each side's lawyers last February the owner, Mercedes Willis, agreed to carry out specific repairs and building improvements by June 15. Until the repairs were completed, striking tenants would pay rent into an escrow account.

At the beginning of November, 22 of 42 tenants were still withholding rent. But

ants.

Myrna Melgar of St. Peter's is angered by Keystone's backlash against strikers. "We are here to hold the management company and owner accountable. This is a common tactic used by strike breakers... they bring in outsiders."

Melgar acknowledged that "things are better" now, and that some repairs have been made. But she says only 60% of the repairs outlined in the contract have been completed and that, relative to conditions when owner Mercedes Willis bought the building 3 1/2 years ago, "she's let it go to pot" with her negligence.

"The repairs they made six months ago

November 9 & 16, 1990

The 40 or so demonstrators who marched up and down the sidewalk in front of Keystone Management Company at the corner of Market and Duboce on the 9th were

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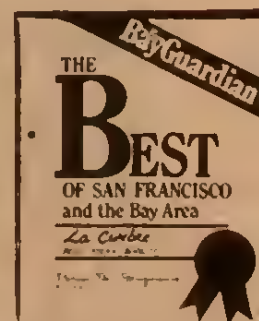
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# REVITALIZING 24th St.

- by Betsy Randolph

Cleanup might not sound like something to celebrate but, on 24th Street, Cleanup Day is a chance to meet neighbors and take pride in your community. The 24th Street Revitalization Committee and 24th Street Merchants Association are launching a full-scale attack on grime and garbage this December 15, from 8:30 AM - Noon, in preparation for the Santa Claus Parade.

The human vacuum (with the help of equipment from the Department of Public Works) will be aimed at 24th Street between Valencia and Potrero; 16th Street between South Van Ness and Guerrero; and Mission and Valencia between 15th and 17th Streets. Fuel for the helpers will be provided courtesy of 24th Street merchants: free coffee and pan dulce will be served in the morning, and a delicious lunch served at noon. 24th Street volunteers will meet at 8:30 at St. Peter's church parking lot at 24th and Alameda. North Mission volunteers will meet at 8:30 at 16th and South Van Ness.

On Saturday, December 22, Santa Claus and his elves will march down 24th Street distributing gifts to children, from 9-11 AM. The gifts are being donated by Mission merchants, who meanwhile will be sprucing up for the annual Window Decoration Contest, organized by Gateway Realty's Chris Collins and the Mission Police Department.

Cleanup Day is one of the ongoing activities of the 24th Street Revitalization Committee, which is "determined to improve the area while preserving its existing character", explains economic development specialist Ricardo Noguera of the Mission Economic Development Association (MEDA). The Committee is in the 2nd year of a 5 year project, spearheaded by Supervisor Jim Gonzalez to address the physical, economic and social



FRUITILANDIA OWNER ROSA RIVERA

"conditions" on the 24th Street commercial corridor. Specifically, this means the physical deterioration of buildings, lack of financial resources and technical assistance to improve storefronts and property, and crime. A number of beautification projects have been completed in recent months.

The Facade Loan Improvement Program, funded by the Mayor's Office of Economic Development, enables small businesses to get loans of up to \$5,000 to improve storefronts. The Nuevo Frutilandia restaurant on 24th Street has had a gorgeous makeover through this program, according to owner Rosa Rivera, chair of the Physical Improvement subcommittee. Other beautified beneficiaries include Casa Sanchez,

Golden Crust Pies and the Winnemucca, a small Native American barbershop between Bryant and Florida. Noguera believes that, within the next 6 months, many more merchants will participate.

The Committee also assists businesses in extending their leases, so they can stay where they are. "We do not want to displace residents or merchants" in the course of improving the neighborhood, says Noguera emphatically. The goal of an extended lease is to lock into the Consumer Price Index, thereby becoming less susceptible to inflation.

This summer heralded the installation of the "Emblems of the Americas" on 24th Street streetlamps. A series of placards representing the Latin American and Caribbean native countries of many

Mission residents was designed by Rene Castro and his team at Mission Grafica. Modelled after the "Avenue of the Americas" on Sixth Avenue in New York City, "Emblems" was funded by a Public Space Improvement Grant from the Mayor's Office of Community Development. The same grant helped to revitalize murals and ensure safety for children in the mini-park at 24th and York. Nighttime occupation of the park by derelicts had resulted in broken glass and needles in the sandbox. A security fence has been installed, and the park is now closed from dusk to sunrise.

The 24th Street Revitalization Committee is made up of community organizations, local merchants and residents and city officials. Of the 40-50 members, there are 25 active participants. Community organizations involved include the Mission Economic Development Association (MEDA), Mission Housing Development Corporation, the Mission Economic and Cultural Association (MECA) and the 24th Street Merchants Association. Supervisor Jim Gonzalez and Planning Commissioner Jim Morales are on the committee.

While the committee seeks to revitalize small businesses and the physical appearance of the neighborhood, it also seeks to preserve the existing Latin character of the Mission. The hope is that the Mission can spread its wings and attract visitors without losing its roots as a diverse community that is home to many immigrant groups.

With Balmy Alley and the other murals, Galeria de la Raza and Mission Cultural Center, some see the Mission as the hub of Latin culture in San Francisco and the North Bay. The neighborhood is also known for its variety and abundance of taquerias and restaurants. It is thus vital to keep the specialty shops, tropical goods and produce stores and restaurants open.

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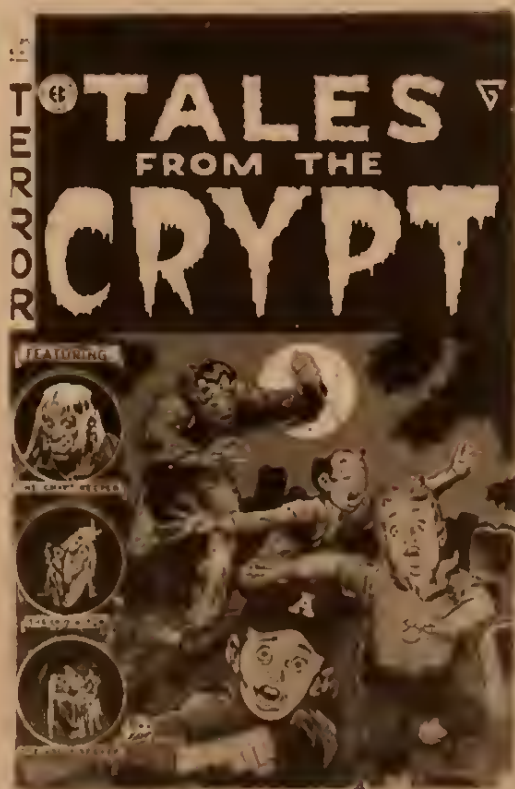
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# PATROLLING THE MISSION CORRIDOR

You walk down Mission Street, starting at Fifteenth and ending at Twenty Third. On your stroll you pass people loitering on doorsteps, panhandling. You hold your breath as you pass by urine soaked parts of the sidewalk. Your stomach turns with the smell of rotting fish and rotting fruit. Garbage sticks to your shoes and you don't feel safe. What is wrong with this picture?

The very question was asked by a number of residents of the Mission Corridor, resulting in the formation of the Mission Corridor Committee (MCC). I met with one of the MCC's organizers, Mary Harden, and got a description of their goals and activities.

Some of the topics the MCC wishes to address include the enforcement of sidewalk cleaning ordinances, the identification and possible restriction of undesirable businesses, the control of the sale of alcoholic beverages and the identification and possible restriction of "saturation level" businesses.

In order to enforce the cleaning of sidewalks by the businesses, the MCC organized a walk with city officials (health officials, fire marshals, etc.) in an effort to maintain a level of cleanliness that will pass health codes. "Our attempt has not been to beat anyone over the head and cite them. It's been to educate. The first walk was to hand out the ordinance and say 'you've got to follow these codes'," said Mary Harden.

The second walk has just occurred and, there, citations were handed out. "There were a lot of dirty merchants. It's real obvious that merchants haven't cleaned up at all. Obvious Health Codes (violations), (with) exits blocked," Harden said.

One of the citations was handed out to the Country Station Sushi Cafe at 2140 because of the planter boxes the owner has placed in front of his restaurants. "They're

not up to code," said Harden, "they are a hazard and they obstruct the sidewalk. You can have a code planter box, which is what you have everywhere else in the city. You can't just haul stuff out, throw dirt in them and say this is a planter box. If you walk five feet off this corner (16th and Sycamore) it's the most disgusting alley you ever want to walk down... You've got maybe ten people that congregate in front of this

you've got litter, you've got defecation in the street, you've got drinking you've got people that are up to no good." Saturation businesses are explained as those that are chain style stores. Specifically, she names Payless Shoes, a store with duplicates only a few blocks apart.

Harden cites bars as one of the big problems of the Mission Corridor. "We have more liquor licenses than any other

per square foot."

The MCC has come under criticism by some of the members from the same community they are trying to revitalize. Harden said that "We've been criticized for being so negative. That's because we are quite willing to look at things as they are... We don't have a problem talking about the bad things that are going on in the Mission... let's just do something about them."

The MCC has had some successes in their past efforts. They put pressure on the phone company to restrict the pay phones at Twenty-fourth and Mission to out-going calls only. This has reduced the amount of loitering, drug dealing and vandalism at the phones. Their walks down Mission Street have had a positive effect as well. There are more merchants that consistently clean their store fronts.

Harden speaks of the organization as having good people with a lot of organizational experience that have the ability to work beyond their differences and the criticisms. "(There are) people that have lived here for a long time. I'm tired of hearing the bullshit about racial bias and marginal businesses... Everybody is worried about what race somebody is. That's not what the neighborhood is like. The neighborhood is very mixed. It's a melting pot. It's no longer a latin neighborhood. And that's something else that has to change, that attitude. It doesn't mean that you don't preserve ethnicity and celebrate people's heritage. But agents have to represent a broader base of people that live here."

Tim Manley

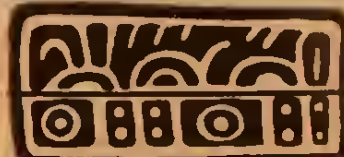


A. V. PHOTO COURTESY OF MCC

poor business every day... They can clean up their business to provide a better service to people."

Harden explains that undesirable businesses are those that have a negative impact on the neighborhood, some of which would include bars, pawn shops, sex shops, tattoo parlors and video arcades. "Where people aren't doing anything except hanging out,

part of the city or any other part of the state... liquor licenses are something that we want to look at real seriously. We've spent some money looking at the sample that Third Street has come up with on how to limit the licenses they have. We're going to study it (Third Street's draft) and see if we can do something similar in the Mission, where you look at how many licenses



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# DEATHTRAP OWNERS DEFY THE CITY

280 Mission Street is a decaying, foul-smelling firetrap, filled with piles of rotting, combustible debris, lacking both fire alarms and smoke detectors and infested with roaches and rodents. The building's plumbing and electrical systems are in a state of disrepair, stairs are deteriorated and walls have gaping holes.

All of this was known by City inspectors as far back as March 15, 1985 when the 8 unit apartment building which sits over a now-abandoned taqueria was cited for 40 violations of the City's fire, housing and building codes. So far, nobody can find the owners and the case has moved at a leisurely pace through various inspecting agencies until finally winding up at the City Attorney's office on September 2, 1987.

There it joined numerous similar cases and, while a great deal of paperwork was generated over the intervening years, the building is, today, in worse shape than when first cited. It is now a serious fire hazard and abuts a densely populated residential hotel on its south side. Street people have taken over the badly damaged residential units and used the building as a base for burglarizing adjacent apartments on San Carlos Street.

Mission Police Station Captain Michael Hebel inspected the building as part of the monthly Mission Street walk of the Mission Corridor Committee (see related story "Patrolling Mission Street" in this issue). Hebel called the building the "armpit of the Mission" and last month, at his request, City inspectors from the Health, Fire and Housing departments as well as Assistant City Attorney Virginia Elizondo converged on the building for a showdown with John E. Tsang, who may or may not represent owners Shum Choi Sing and Lee Sau Ling.

The Assessor's records show Sing and Ling as the owners, whose mailing address is a San Francisco post office box. Mail, including the 1985 code violation notices, is apparently picked up by Mr. Tsang

(pronounced Sang) since he is the only one of the trio anybody has ever seen.

The unhappy Mr. Tsang, a fiftyish man in an ill-fitting pin striped suit with a Pete Wilson lapel pin accompanied the inspection team through the building, looking grim and confused. Elizondo told the News that, at one point, Tsang had confused the

roof of 2280, the stench inside being too intolerable for prolonged conversation. "Mr. Tsang, you've got to understand you are responsible for this building. Mr. Tsang, do you have the power of attorney for the owner that you said you'd bring? Mr. Tsang, what is the owner's address?"

To all this, he shook his head in mourn-

the worst in the Mission, Langer said "Legal manipulation by the owners' attorneys can draw a case out for a long time. Continuances of 90 days or longer are hardly ever denied." Langer was unable to say how many buildings like 2280 Mission Street might be in the books right now.

Both Langer and Elizondo said the building would probably be best dealt with by putting it into receivership. This a relatively new enforcement tactic whereby the courts turn over slum properties to a receiver, who then repairs and sells them. The rub here is that the owner must first be given proper notice and in this case, where there is no way to tell whether the owners are in Hong Kong or Disneyland, notification becomes a bit of a problem. No one even knows how long the receivership process would take if the owners were located and decided to fight back. It could take years.

Whatever eventually happens at 2280 Mission Street, the fact remains that, for nearly six years, a dangerous fire trap has been allowed to go unrepaired.

This brings into question the adequacy of the current code enforcement system in protecting lives and property. While community groups demand crime in the Mission be brought under control, here is a building made available to any street scum who wants a base of operation.

As various business and service organizations try to bring some economic vitality to the district, we have this outrageous abandonment of a building in the heart of the commercial area of the Mission and, possibly, the harbinger of a South Bronx syndrome of absentee abandonment.

Certainly this entire fiasco does not bode well for the future of the Mission.

by Victor Miller



2280 Mission Street

Health Department with a janitorial service, barraging astounded inspectors with demands that they clean up the building. The Health Department responded by placing a series of liens on the property.

Elizondo confronted Tsang on the walled

ful negativity and then, suddenly and fiercely jabbed his thumb into the crux of his arm, pantomiming somebody shooting drugs. "Junkies, junkies did all this," he said.

This was as coherent as Tsang got. He passed out his business card which reads: John Tsang; TSW International Sales Co., John E. Engineering Service, Chinese Institute of Engineering, Chinese Republican Association (Issues Committee), Dong Sam Sing Tong (Chairman) and Lincoln University Foundation (First Vice President).

As we go to press, Tsang has produced neither the power of attorney from the owner or the owner's addresses. He has indicated to Elizondo that they live in Hong Kong, but has not been more specific.

Building Inspector Derrill Langer admits little has been done in the building since 1985 but does not see the case as, in any way, unusual. "We have cases from the 70's," says Langer. Calling the building



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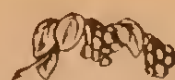
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# BOOT

one tenant said. "He waited until he had received all our rents and then sent out the notices."

In addition to the North Mission News and Association, many of the building tenants are community service organizations whose ability to serve the public will be disrupted, if not destroyed, by the eviction.

One of these, Men Overcoming Violence (MOVE) will have to move out of the Mission. According to spokesman Jim Shattuck, the organization, an 8-year tenant "is still looking for a place", but has decided to go to the Tenderloin or Civic Center area. "It was rude of the owners to give only 30 days' notice since they obviously had been planning the renovations and evictions for months."

MOVE offers counseling to perpetrators of domestic violence, many of whom call the organization as a last-gasp alternative. It is impossible to calculate how many Mission residents, especially women and children, will be beaten or even killed as a result of this forcible eviction.

Martha Senger of ArtsDeco, formerly the Goodman Group, is a more experienced veteran of the ugly side of gentrification. As one of the tenants of the Goodman building at Geary and Van Ness which was cleared out in a violent eviction, Senger has spent a dozen years fighting for justice from the City. Now, with the possibility of a settlement that would create artist live-work space on Potrero Hill, Arts Deco is forced into a two-front war against Chan, on one end, and artist-despising NIMBYs on the other.

The possible failure of the Potrero settlement as a result of disruptions caused by the eviction would be another disaster for San Francisco.

Some of the displaced businesses include notaries, traffic safety schools and landlord/tenant attorney Robert Burch, who sees the owner's action as a mixed blessing. "The building lacked heat, hot water, and there were always problems with toilets and leaking water." Burch hasn't found

Continued from Page 1

another place and said, cautiously, that he plans to "negotiate" with Mr. Yec.

Two tenants who have fixed, as opposed to month-to-month leases, are planning even stronger action.

Stephen Axelrod, an accountant who has used 3004 as his offices for ten years, was visibly angry. "I always paid my rent on time and never caused trouble," he complained. Axelrod's situation is unusual because he has taken several small rooms on different lease terms, improving them at his own expense. He has already decided to take legal action, to recover not only the cost of the improvements but other expenses involved in the eviction. "I put money and time into business cards, new carpets, moving... this has all been a real nightmare."

Even more outraged and stubborn is the Haight-Ashbury Switchboard, a San Francisco institution that, in fact, can no longer afford the gentrified Haight and is promising to wage a last ditch, no-holds-barred war for its survival.

"We're going to fight it all the way," vows co-director (and occasional News columnist J. B. Saunders) who will be announcing a press conference in December as to the Switchboard's plans.

The Switchboard was started back in the Summer of Love and, for over twenty years, has provided referral services, counseling to the distressed and aid to the homeless and hungry. Its demise would hasten the apocalypse that the greedy 90's seem bent on provoking, its high effectiveness to low expense was noted as early as 1972 by the late Emmett Grogan who wrote that "the Switchboard was the only one of these operations that did any amount of substantial work for the welfare of the Haight community."

The fate of a number of live-work artists who live on the top floor of the building is also up in the air, depending on how the law interprets their lease.

Commercial tenants, private and non-profit alike, are afforded no protection by



SWITCHBOARD CO-DIRECTOR RICHARD VITELLI

Photo by Amy Snyder

the law and, in fact, a California state law was passed a few years ago prohibiting cities from enacting such legislation.

The author of that bill was then Democratic State Legislator John Garamendi who also tried, but failed, to obtain a California law against local rent control. Garamendi took the money given to him by grateful landlords and used it to get himself elected State Insurance Commissioner in the no-runoff election when a half dozen other honest candidates divided the vote between them. With less than a third of the primary vote, Garamendi becomes the overseer of the highly corrupt and lucrative insurance industry, and takes office next month.

Meanwhile California Savings, which has occupied the 16th and Mission location for 20 years, more or less, is looking towards its own lease which expires next year. "I'd hope the owner would want to have a stable ground floor tenant," said Carrier, a little hopefully.

The bank has endured problems at both ends, leaking pipes and sewage from above, groundwater seepage from below. "When they dammed up an underground stream for

the BART tunnel," Carrier said, "the water was forced up into adjacent properties."

Nonetheless, California Savings would like to stay at 16th and Mission. Knowing its reputation as one of the small minority of responsible S&Ls who still think neighborhood homeowners are a better risk than bizarre development schemes, I asked the present manager, Brendan Magowan, his opinion about the financial wisdom in renovating the cornerstone building in the crime-ridden Devil's Quadrangle as Financial District type offices with FD-type rents.

Banker and diplomat he is, Magowan declined comment, but his smile spoke volumes.

\*\*\*\*\*

The North Mission News is tentatively moving to 513 Valencia, SF 94110 so, until further notice, direct your mail there. At press time, we are attempting to keep our telephone number, 626-2882, but there are probably going to be delays and disconnections so please be patient.

by Brian Doohan

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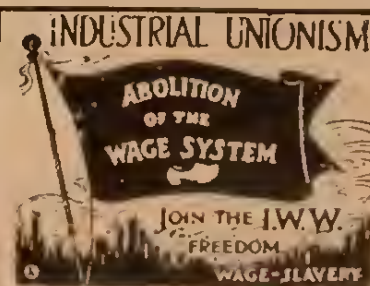


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# THE NOVEMBER DEBACLE FROM A to Z

**A**RT AGNOS watched almost every cause he championed go down in flames, but wound up with a Board of Supervisors largely receptive to his increasingly strange agenda. Don't rule out a successful legislative blitz followed by a "surprise" decision not to run for re-election in 1991 but for the Senate in 1992.

**BOARD GAMES:** The bloc of Doris Ward, Roberta Achtenberg, Carole Migden and Jose Medina swept all of the North Mission's 26 precincts, with Ward winning 13 (including 2 ties with Medina) to edge Achtenberg with 12. Migden won the area around Duboce/Valencia. Bill Maher and Kevin Shelley duelled for fifth everywhere except around Sycamore Alley and the infamous Precinct 1217 (see Q) where Joel Ventresca and Carole Ruth Silver, respectively, poked their noses under the tent.

**COMEDIANS** scored in the City when Tom Ammiano not only was elected to the School Board but finished first and the otherwise forgettable John Figone published his "Arts" campaign poster - the best since Warren Hinckle's eight-color 1987 dogshit effort. The inimitable Wavy Gravy, however, bombed in Berkeley. Hey, have a nice Copper Bowl there, dudes.

**DISTRICT ELECTIONS** may end up a Berkeley-style right wing cause that evokes only sneers from backers of the pliable liberal-moderates now on the Board of Supervisors. Well after Census data is in, somebody will consent to "study" the matter until, say, 1996.

**ENVIRONMENTAL** measures took a savage trashing at the local, state and national level as the voters decided the economic crisis superseded ecological ones. Local media helped by sitting on the story of those 40,000 leaking drums of radioactive waste until the Nuclear Free Zone proposition was defeated.

**FANG, TANG, CHANG** went the pol signs in Chinatown and when the count was

over, "Landslide Jimmy" Fang held a 56 vote (or was it 24... or 68) lead over Public Utilities Commissioner Rodel Rodis for the Mission's representative on the BART Board. Both jumped into the race when incumbent Arlo Smith Junior surrendered his seat fifteen minutes before the deadline

with the passage of Domestic Partners, the election of Ammiano and that of Roberta Achtenberg and Carole Migden to the Board of Supervisors. Doris Ward's support of Proposition K probably earned her enough gay votes to overtake the Outsider who's still Out, Billy Maher, for the Presidency.



in order to give his sister Alexa an unopposed path, but a little known legal provision allowed Fang and Rodis to file. Rodis campaigned with the backing of Mayor Agnos, Fang with his brother, publisher of the SF Independent. The outcome suggests one direction of power in San Francisco.

**GAYS AND LESBIANS** cleaned up

With two new lesbian Supervisors...

**HARRY BRITT** can ride off into the sunset - although any early retirement would hinge on what would probably be a heated discussion with Mr. Agnos over his successor. The Examiner "Insiders" predicted defeated BART Board candidate Rodis (see F) would be appointed - the News suggests

Planning Commission President Morales who (like another Jimmy) demonstrated his loyalty to d'Mayor by carrying that ball n' chain of Mission Bay. Stay tuned...

**INITIATIVE REFORM** was all over the right-wing media the day after, with predictable proposals for legislative or judicial review, raising the qualifying signature count or banning the process altogether. As far as campaign spending limit, banning "Trojan Horses" or even disclosing the backers of special interest measures... are you crazy?

**JESSES** won in Washington and North Carolina where a serious and well-funded campaign by black legislator Harvey Gantt collapsed in the last week under a barrage of racist television ads and hit mail. Jesse Jackson, however, was elected D.C. "shadow senator" which conjures up the picture of a white silhouette slinking through the dark and smoke filled corridors of power, stealing squalid secrets and revealing them on afternoon and late night talk shows. Now if this "shadow" concept spreads to San Francisco...

**KEVIN MITCHELL** hitting home runs into the Bay? Could happen, now that Santa Clara voted down the Giants if a private financing plan can be worked out. Prediction: a China Basin stadium financed by leasing out the Stick as a combined amusement park and farmer's market, also freeing up space for a few hundred affordable apartments. Alternative: Will Clark goes home to N'Awleans.

**LAUGH AT ME?** Heading the list of replacement Senators for Pete Wilson to appoint is ex-entertainer and Mayor of Palm Springs, Sonny Bono, recently chauffeured around Washington by another hopeful... Vice President Dan Quayle, whose prospects for the other 1992 Senate seat hinge on a deal that would have him moving out thisaway and withdrawing in favor of Gen. Colin Powell if Powell promptly disposes

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of Saddam Hussein. If Pete says "hi" instead of "why?", Sonny and Dan would return to the California Senatorial delegation its sense of wonder and prestige missing since the days of "Dancin'" George Murphy and "Sleepin'" Sam Hayakawa.

MISSION BAY went down by so few votes (less than 500) that anybody could claim credit for the elephanticide. Among them... renters, NIMBYs, Walter Shorenstein, aggrieved taxpayers, revolutionaries, the North Mission News' World War III insert, the Dehnert Queen for Supervisor campaign, neighborhood squatters... even Quentin Kopp! The downside... like a colored version of Night of the Living Dead... it will be back... and back... and back!

**NORTH MISSION VOTERS** stood up for all the good things (including those which lost city or statewide) and, where there was nothing good to vote for, settled for lesser evils like Dianne Feinstein and Richard Hongisto. Local overachievers included failed supes Medina, who finished 3rd here vs. 6th citywide, Joel Ventresca (7th v. 14th) and Jim Mangia (13th v. 18th). Washouts numbered Maher (6th here, 2nd Citywide) and Jim Lazarus (9th vs. 7th). Consistency? Ellis ("Party of Life") L.A. Keyes finished 25th and last in the North Mission, 25th in the City.

**ON THE BENCH AGAIN...** Liberals, as wimps they be, failed to mount a campaign of revenge against the Deukmejian judges and all were re-elected easily except for one Armand Arabian (an Armenian), who blamed his skin-of-the-teeth ordeal on the voters and the crisis in the Middle East respectively.

**PRISON LABOR** Proposition 139 was one of the few ballot survivors which will lead to the following contradiction: You lose your job you turn to crime - you are arrested, convicted and jailed - you get somebody else's job - he turns to crime... etc, etc.

**QUADRANGULAR DEVILTRY:** Precinct 1217 covering the 16th and Mis-

sion intersection and encompassing much of our criminal population took its usual conservative, contrarian tack of wine, weaseling and Wendyism by defeating the alcohol tax supported by the rest of the North Mission do-gooders and encouraging Carol Ruth Silver's return to the Be of Esses and Wendy Nelder's bewildered yearnings to Assess.

**REDEEMED?** Sometimes the losers are the real winners. Silver can return to her advocacy for women's reproductive rights (a far more valuable cause than that of whining landlords). Lazarus is in line to take over the top spot at the Chamber of Commerce when its present Chemenkan regime gives way and Medina would be a great choice to turn around the equally moribund San Francisco Labor Council.

**SCHOOL'S OUT!** for progressive Rosario Anaya, dumped along with the other incumbents after a dozen years on the Board of Education. The more conservative Carlotadel Portillo becomes the Latino voice while blacks lost their long-term incumbent, Sodonía Wilson, altogether. However, William Marquis was elected to the College Board without the help of the machine and, with top vote-getter Mabel Teng, could be in position to institute sweeping changes.

**TROJAN HORSES...** measures put on the ballot by special interests in order to confuse the voters and frustrate them into voting NO on the legitimate issue... all won by losing and this tactic is certain to grow as rapidly as the use of negative advertising. Expect no criticism from the media, who depend on their own ads from the timber, liquor, chemical and other corporations.

**UNEMPLOYED:** Arlo Junior... who reportedly switched his position on rent control for \$7,000, on the Embarcadero hotel ban for \$2,500 and on Mission Bay for a munificent \$250. Also, lots of lawyers who wanted the job of Arlo Senior. Even more hacks counting on soft jobs with Di in Sacramento. Wendy Nelder... rumor has it she's been offered work in the Personnel

Departments of a bike messenger agency and/or a temporary Rent-A-Santa outfit. "Ho! Ho! Ho! You're fired... every #&\$;@ one of you!"

**VACANCY CONTROL** will pass in 1991 unless the landlords huy out Angela Alioto and it will put on that year's ballot along with the stadium and Mayor Art's campaign against somebody. How strong will it really be and how strongly will the politicians who say they support it defend it when it comes to the vote?

**WATERFRONT HOTELS** were banned by about 1,000 votes - another triumph of outrage and organization over money. Now we'll see if the Port is serious about developing a plan to attract the super-tanker business and whether all of those environmentalists playing at being long-shoremen will go along with the necessary dredging of toxic mud required for the ships to come in.

**X MARKS THE SPOT** where voters didn't cast their ballots. Mission turnout was slightly under 50%, ranking 16th out of 21 City neighborhoods. But even many of those who did vote only chose a Governor, maybe a Supe or two or a high-profile proposition. John Burton won 100% of the Assembly vote, but only 64% of the 50% who voted at all marked his name. On the Props (in thousands) 194 of the 219 who voted on something voted for or against Domestic Partners, Big Green and Forests Forever, then... in descending order... Mission Bay 186, Nuclear Free Zone 180,

Waterfront Hotels 179, Adult Probation Confidential Secretary 170 and on down to the Judges 108 down to a low of 86 (a 21% turnout Citywide, substantially lower in the Mission).

**YOU BLEW IT!** cried all the Wednesday morning quarterbacks and, at the state level, Democratic Chairman Jerry (Medfly) Brown squared off against Assemblyman (Mad) John Burton for the booby prize. Verdict - "Moonbeam", by failing to build a statewide get-out-the-vote drive and Burton, by his vindictive scorched earth campaign against Roberta Achtenberg (which caused gays, renters, Latinos and environmentalists to walk out of the local DeePee... besides which, she won!) share the dead fish.

**ZSCHAU** for Senate? Again? Remember those great hi-tech commercials that sort of took off like a... Zsss... chow! It's less than eighteen months to the 1992 primaries. Since Ed Zschau and Dan Quayle look exactly alike, how are Republicans going to decide who to run against Dianne Feinstein? And what are voters going to do when faced with the choice of Jerry Brown and Sonny Bono? Ah, California!



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# HALL For RENT

## The YORK THEATER

The York Theater is a classic movie theater located at 2789 24th Street, in the Mission/Potrero Hill area. The Theater is approximately twelve-thousand (12,000) square feet with 953 seats. It has a large lobby (approximately two-thousand (2,000) square feet) with concession stand, ticket booth, and small office. The auditorium has a stage with four dressing rooms underneath. The screen, which is located on the stage, flies (moves easily out of the way). The York is fully equipped and operational as a movie theater and frequently is used for live events as well.

If you would like to rent the Theater for events please call Martha at (415) 668-8999.

**COMING SOON --**

**THE RED VIC MOVIE HOUSE**

We're hoping to open The Red Vic on January 9, but still have not raised all the funds we need to complete the project. Any donation would be greatly appreciated! Please send checks to The Red Vic, PO Box 170400, S.F., 94117. Ph. 668-8999.

Looking forward to seeing you,  
The RedVic Collective





# NEIGHBORHOOD BEAT

## NEW OF VALENCIA ST.



DR. CRAIG MAURER

Dr. Craig Maurer likes to think of his new office on Valencia Street as a place "for regular folks". The fact that he designed and built the place himself, "right down to the sheetrock", certainly speaks to his down-to-earth approach to chiropractic.

A native New Yorker, Dr. Maurer chose the Mission because it "reminded (him) of New York". Besides, he says, he's "not into the downtown scene."

And this way, he gets curious walk-ins, including many neighbors who have put off

seeing a chiropractor for any number of reasons. While I was there, a young guy with an awfully stiff neck wandered in -- he said he had a motorcycle accident a few months earlier.

The office feels and smells like a doctor's office, but the music, one-person show feel and bones, yes... Bones... in the window display add a more folksy touch to the traditional sterility found in your average waiting room.

He's equally low key and patient-friendly about his work. "Some chiroprac-

tors are into this ego thing, and make a big deal about the work they do for their patients. My philosophy is simple, just based on three ideas: relief, correction and maintenance. Your own body's energy is what provides the healing. I just remove whatever is interfering with the energy flow."

Launching a solo practice right out of chiropractor school has made for a challenging start for Dr. Maurer, but he says it's

been worth it. Only about 2% of the chiropractors start out on their own. "Sure, it's been very financially taxing. But there's nothing like having complete liberty to determine the direction of your work," Maurer said.

That also means getting out into the streets, door-to-door, to meet residents. "It's hard, sometimes, but it's always very rewarding," he said.

## OPEN ST. CONTROVERSY

Traffic facilitation and crime prevention are two of the highest priority items for any neighborhood or city government, but what to do when they conflict? That is a problem that will be facing tenants of the Bernal Dwellings housing project at 26th and Treat Streets and their immediate neighbors.

On October 9th the Board of Supervisors, responding to pleas from non-project neighbors, agreed to open Treat Street, which had previously dead-ended in the projects.

But the decision has resulted in angry responses from tenants. According to Lorna Yee, vice president of the tenant association, the street opening would only increase the number and likelihood of drive-by shootings that have been the plague of the projects, as well as increasing the risk of accidents.

"It's the only safe crossing for kids in the neighborhood," she told the News.

President Gail Powell is also concerned, noting that the part of the street that would be opened is next to a basketball court and

recreation area where not only drive-by killers but drug peddlers could cruise up and perpetuate their mischief. "We think this will create an open target practice on our kids." She has been circulating a petition to keep the street closed, and reports that 98 signatures have been obtained.

In the middle of the conflict is Supervisor Jim Gonzalez, who is making an effort to mediate the disagreement between tenants and the neighbors, who support the street opening as a means of solving the neighborhood's traffic problems.

"We're planning to meet with both the tenants and neighbors," said Gonzalez aide Alice Perez, who also hopes to seek input from project management and Mission police. Perez added that neighbors who wanted to be notified of meetings should call her at 554-5338. Powell and Yee ask that Bernal Dwellings tenants and others concerned about the drive-by potential contact the tenants' association c/o manager Percy Coleman at 821-0820.

by Brian Doohan

## MISSION PLANNER

The San Francisco Planning Department has appointed Angelica Chiong as a planner specializing in the Mission District, between Army, Duboce, Dolores and Potrero.

Chiong, who starts work in December said she would have two principle duties:

completion of the Northeast Industrial Zoning study, which assesses the jobs/housing balance in the mixed use areas around Harrison, Bryant and Potrero Streets, and improving communication with other City government agencies and community groups.

Thur & Fri • Dec 6 & 7

### GRETA GARBO: A WOMAN OF AFFAIRS

A WOMAN OF AFFAIRS is a unique multimedia presentation exploring the public and private life of one of Hollywood's most fascinating and elusive personages. Video clips from Greta Garbo's infamous films show the actress assuming sexual and political intrigues that place her as a feminist icon. Her life and career are explored in the form of cross-dressing, with same-sex relationships illustrating how the lesbian and gay audiences of the time were entertained with mass media vehicles. A thoroughly researched text accompanies the clips and slides. Compiled and produced by Eric Garber and Mary Wings. 90 mins.

THUR & FRI 7:00 & 9:30  
SPECIAL ADMISSION OF \$6 FOR THIS EVENT



Sat & Sun • Dec 8 & 9

### THE GREAT ROCK & ROLL SWINDLE

Julien Temple's outrageous, landmark documentary chronicling the very bizarre times of The Sex Pistols, Britain's most notorious contribution to the Punk Explosion of the late seventies. No other film has come as close to capturing the mood and the tempo of this incredible period in our contemporary popular culture. With Malcolm McLaren, Johnny Rotten, Sid Vicious, Steve Jones and Paul Cook. Directed by Julien Temple. In Color. 35mm. 103 mins. Great Britain, 1980.

SAT & SUN 4:00 and 8:00

### ABSOLUTE BEGINNERS

One of the most sumptuous, stylish films of the 1980s, *Absolute Beginners* tells the story of the birth of Rock & Roll in 1958 London. Based on Colin MacInnes' 1959 novel, the film is rich in period detail and features a pulsating score highlighted by Gil Evans, Slim Gaillard and Sade. Starring Eddie O'Connell, Patsy Kensit, David Bowie, James Fox, Ray Davies and Anita Morris. Directed by Julien Temple. In Color. 35mm. 107 mins. Great Britain, 1986.

SAT & SUN 2:00, 6:00, 10:00



Wed-Tues • Dec 12-18

### RED DESERT

Antonioni's rediscovered classic is constructed as a visual work which relies as heavily on elements of abstract art as it does upon traditional motion picture syntax. The careful use of color, form and image composition surround the characters with the physical and emotional landscapes. In *Red Desert*, modern Italy has become an industrial wasteland run by technocrats who have misplaced life's meanings. Monica Vitti, as a factory engineer's wife, is recovering from a recent automobile accident, an event which has heightened her sense of confusion and loss. Neurotically sensitive to her physical environment and alienated from modern society, she seeks a basis for hope. In desperation she takes a lover, Richard Harris. Antonioni expended enormous efforts to create a grand visual concept: factory sets, landscapes, a desert beach, hair color and even fruit were painted and dyed to convey an eerie, almost surreal, rational atmosphere. As depicted in the dementia of Monica Vitti's character, modern man's technological capabilities may have now outstripped his humanity. This haunting and mesmerizing film is a newly struck print directly from the pristine internegative. Directed by Michelangelo Antonioni. Technicolor. 35mm. 116 mins. Italy/France, 1964.

MON-FRI 7:00 and 9:15  
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An example of the latter is the ease of 2280 Mission, reported on elsewhere this issue. A problem that residents, developers, landlords and tenants have all complained of is bureaucracy and duplication of rules and services between such agencies as the Planning Department, Health Department, Bureau of Building Inspections and Police.

Chiong said that a special priority of hers would be to streamline the process under which these various City agencies operate.

She also declined to compare her job to that Susana Montana, who was the South of Market planner during the preparation of

that neighborhood's master plan. "This is the first time that this approach has been taken," Chiong said, in reference to the appointment of a planner for a neighborhood not undergoing major rezoning.

Chiong also said that she would be working with a planner with former experience in Mission, Lois Scott, if (as is rumored) developers come forward for another proposal for massive office or condo construction in the South Van Ness/Mission area. But she is not "at this time" expecting to be involved in the Mission Bay planning process, which goes back to the drawing board following its rejection by the voters last month.

## FOR BETTER NOT WORSE



- by Richard Reineccius

"For Better, Not for Worse" by Julian Theatre performer, playwright and director-in-residence Selaelo Maredi is being presented at the Julian's Dolores Street Community Center, 200 Dolores (at 15th Street) Wednesdays through Saturday through December 8. It may be the last opportunity for Mission residents to see Maredi for some time, as he plans to return to his native South Africa, from which he has been banned since 1977.

Maredi, author of numerous plays in the U.S. and South Africa (including "Survival", winner of the prestigious AUDELCO award for minority performing artists in New York) calls his present work "a political comedy of hope and struggle for the future of South Africa"

set at the time of the death of pro-apartheid Prime Minister Verwoerd in 1966.

With the release of Nelson Mandela and the un-hanging of the African National Congress, Maredi plans to teach theatre to young people in South Africa following his return, believing that theatre can "teach young people to win friends, love people, respect the old, the young, women, everybody."

"A gun is only dangerous in the hands of a killer," he adds. "When you pick it up and look at it, it is simply a beautiful machine. It is the same with theatre — in the hands of peace-loving people, it is something beautiful, something that can teach."

Tickets (\$8-10) are available through STBS, Modern Times Bookstore (Valencia near 21st) or by calling 626-8986 or 861-6251.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Editor:

Thanks for Tara Kramer's expose of the so-called Recovery March.

Cecil Williams can sell the Glide buildings any time he wants for 20 million dollars. Divide that among 200 welfare moms, and that is \$100,000 apiece he could have given each of them that same day.

He gets his donations and publicity by making people line up for a free meal in front of all those Union Square tourists. This degrades the image of Black people.

Sincerely,  
Bernell Johnson

Dear Friend:

On behalf of Catellus, I would like to extend our most sincere thanks for your interest and support for Proposition I. Although our attempt was unsuccessful, we feel very good about our effort, and the abundance of support we had from people like you.

For Mission Bay, this was a timing setback, but we remain committed to building this new neighborhood for San Francisco in the coming years. As you know, we are seeking approval of the Board of Supervisors and will be working hard to complete the approval process in the coming year. We still hope to begin our first phase of housing and the first office building at the end of 1991.

Again, thank you for your support. We are very grateful.

Cordially, Jim Augustino - Vice President

(Note: the preceding was received after last month's election, in which both the North Mission News and Association endorsed a NO vote on Proposition I. We, too, feel very good about our effort, and are especially grateful that the proposed project is dead... dead... dead!... while recognizing the propensity of these things to rise from the grave about as often as Jason, Michael Myers or Freddy Krueger.)

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Tickets: \$10 general admission, \$8 students/seniors, available at STBS (Union Square  
or Embarcadero 1), Modern Times (968 Valencia near 21st)  
Reservations/Information: THE JULIAN THEATRE 626-8986, or 861-6251

# OPEN FORUM A SCHOOL OF COLLECTIVE LEARNING

Mission-based Open Forum offers the community-at-large a real resource: informal discussion and study groups that encourage participants to deal with the most pressing issues in their lives political, economic, social and cultural.

In these groups which meet weekly, activists develop critical thinking, acquire skills in practical leadership, share in collective learning, all the while being involved in the direction of their own learning.

"This is surely a non-traditional approach to learning," says Tim Lennon who, with Mission-resident Lisa Schiff, organized Open Forum in January with the help of a few friends. "People are interested in trying to get a better grasp of what's happening in the world today, and they're just not getting it in the media."

Open Forum's leaders and conveners come from many fields: writing, teaching, women's rights projects, the Green Movement, medical engineering, etc. Workshop and discussion topics have their source in the broad antiwar, environmental and women's movements. Some ongoing topics include "Israelis, Palestinians and the Persian Gulf"; "Politics of Stress"; "Building a Women's Community"; "Women and Sex Work"; "From Lenin to Lorax"; "The USA Today: An Analysis"; "Government Repression"; "Capital (Vol. II of Marx)".

The workshops emphasize the relation between the personal and the political - participants, for instance, make connections between homelessness, unemployment, environmental degradation, stress disorders and the policies of our government and corporations.

Open Forum is not aligned with any political party or movement and believes that sharing skills and knowledge is one of the best ways to understand and promote change in ourselves and for society.

Perceiving one's private and personal stress or "hell" as political, the workshops address the notion of "cure" through the pursuit of social justice, an activist approach.

One of the questions in a recent Open Forum discussion group convened by Tim Lennon was "Why isn't a revolt happening here? What makes the U.S. so politically unique that our form of protests appear and then fade away like shooting stars?" The group examined Mike Davis' book Prisoners of the American Dream as well as current articles about major currents in politics.

Open Forum's aim, says Tim Lennon, "is to get away from the experts, to encourage and promote people who have an inter-

est in these issues that oppress their lives, and give them support in their new thinking."

While some workshops meet in public places, most meet in the apartments of Mission District residents. Most participants are activists of some kind, and all are encouraged to be workshop facilitators, leaders or conveners. Open Forum would like to broaden its outreach to the Asian and Hispanic communities and serve as a long-term resource.

This reporter was given permission, one evening, to sit in on a study group for activists who, over an eight-week period, were exploring the interrelationship of ecology, social justice, capitalist exploitation, toxic waste, U.S. intervention in the Third World, indigenous people, the energy crisis - an ideal workshop for the Bay Area, it seemed.

Fifteen men and women met in the apartment of one of the four conveners, sitting informally in a circle on the floor or on cushions or blanket-covered stuffed chairs and sofas. The meeting began with announcements and distribution of flyers about forthcoming events, demonstrations and happenings, and clearly indicated the degree of community involvement. Copies of other materials were placed in the center of the circle for all to take.

Each member of the group had a chance to speak; there was an easy exchange between convener and facilitators, and much original critiquing from students. The atmosphere was relaxed and comfortable.

The group had read three articles on ecology and the United States' "chemical dependency"; the discussion focused on what each article had to say about the need to change this dependency - i.e. can this country "turn it around" within the capitalist system, or must the system be changed and in what way?

This particular workshop started in October, meeting every Monday for eight weeks. Some workshops meet less frequently and new topics replace them. Open Forum is a non-profit organization based on volunteer leadership, and multi-ethnic and multicultural community involvement is sought in order to provide the broadest range for participants. Open Forum offers to share in childcare and convener costs; all fees are negotiable and no one is turned away for lack of funds. A donation of \$5 to \$40 is requested to help defray costs.

For a brochure and more information, contact Open Forum, P.O.B. 40598, San Francisco 94140, or call them at 552-2993.

Joan Intrator

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# PIGEON WARS

Hey, old lady: stop feeding the pigeons. Don't you know it's against the law?

Section 486 of Article 7 of the San Francisco City Ordinance states that it's illegal "to feed or offer food to any bird or wild animal."

According to the Health Department, pigeons spread disease, contaminate food, deface buildings, corrode cars, make bad smells and sully your hair. Not pigeons, exactly, but pigeon shit.

Still you feed them. In defiance of law and sensible hygiene you sneak down to Dolores Park and scatter your bag of Wonder crumbs. Don't you know you're only encouraging them to stick around. To breed?

Maybe you like pigeons because they're monogamous, or maybe you appreciate their excellent eyesight, or their uncanny homing instincts. Maybe they're the only creatures left in your life.

That's what the guy at the Health Department told me. He said you're lonely. All your friends are dead, and your kids don't want to be fed anymore, and so you turn to pigeons.

Hey man: stop punting those pigeons. Don't you know it's against the law?

Section 485 states that it shall be unlawful for any person to trap, capture, kill or otherwise destroy any wild bird within the City and County of San Francisco.

But there's a but: you can get permission from the Director of Public Health.

Permission? Hell, they'll show you how to do it. The boys down at the Department of Public Health hate pigeons. They'll send you a packet with all the latest techniques of "pigeon exclusion" and "pigeon suppression" (doublepeak for "scaring them away" and "killing them").

To begin with, try environmental sanitation; i.e., "reduce the capability of the environment to support pigeon populations." As the literature states, "without food, pigeons cannot exist." Grains, garbage and organic wastes should be vacuum-packed in Glad garbage bags or in some equally birdproof manner.

This probably won't work. Just when the pigeons are about to starve, some lonely old lady toting a bag of Wonder crumbs will wander into your neighborhood.

Next, you can employ "exclusion" techniques. Porcupine wires, wicked-looking jumbles of spikes, are a relatively permanent method of discouraging pigeon roosting on structures. Try Nicalite or Cat Claw. Other less permanent techniques include the use of Roman candles, firecrackers, water hoses and shocker cables.

Better still, go with Avitrol. Avitrol is

classified as a "chemical frightening agent" — it's banned in San Francisco but readily available in neighboring counties. It comes as whole corn bait impregnated with the chemical 4-Aminopyridine, which is toxic to the pigeon's system. Birds who eat this bait "not only die but, while dying, display distress symptoms which frighten other members of the flock away."

"In urban areas where high mortality may cause adverse public reactions, a blend ratio (of treated to untreated corn) of 1:19 or 1:29 will help to insure little or low mortality." In other words, just enough to scare the shit out of them. "Avitrol toss packs" are also available for those hard-to-reach areas.

Next step, according to the literature, is pigeon suppression: "The birds must be exterminated, not merely taken away and released. The have strong homing instincts and will probably return; if not, they will create a problem somewhere else." The favored techniques of pigeon suppression are trapping, shooting, poisoning and hand capture. Traps can be built following plans obtained from the U.S. Department of the Interior, Wildlife Leaflets 206 and 413. "Shooting is best carried out by no more than a few people who know what they're doing."

Wait a second, man, you haven't got permission to start shooting. You still have to ask the Director of the Health Department. With all the animal-rights activists in this city, you think he's going to let you go around murdering pigeons?

Take it easy, there's still hope. Speaking off the record and asking not to be identified, Training Officer Lawrence W. Pong outlines this handy technique: "feed them eat litter, lots of it, and after they're stuffed, give them water — they'll be thirsty — and then wait and watch until their stomachs bloat."

"They'll waddle around like penguins," he says. "They probably won't die, but at least they'll think about coming around again."

Hey, pigeon: watch your step. Don't you know your days are numbered?

You probably feel pretty safe in San Francisco. The SPCA howls everytime someone tries to mess with you. They say you've got a right to share a space, that you're a valuable example of wildlife. They say there hasn't been a single documented case of disease transmitted by pigeons.

But look at the humans around you, look at our faces: we don't like you. You're like rats, refusing to leave us alone in our urban filth. If only you would act like good



animals, stay in the national forest, we might learn to like you. But you insist on living with us, roosting on our buildings, pecking through our trash, snatching our Big Macs and crapping... crapping on... crapping on everything.

For now, you're safe. During these times of relative plenty, we can afford to let you be, let you feed on our spare bread and our garbage. Your population grows to the limits of our generosity and sloppiness.

But remember this, feathered ones: you

were imported to North America by the Europeans as a source of food.

Hard times are ahead. Wars will flare, economies will collapse, corner stores will empty. We're going to get hungry, and desperate, and you're going to start looking pretty tasty.

Face it, pigeon: you're just an empty stomach and some saturated kitty litter away from my dinner plate.

by John Mason

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# STARVING ARTISTS' TIGER OF THE SOUL SHOW

by Gita Srinivasan

"Most artists show alone, live alone, sell alone..." murmurs painter Mario Joel ruefully, gazing at the vast pile of crinkled paint tubes that form the centerpiece of his Tenderloin studio-living room. Finished paintings and works in progress lean on every available wall surface; the portfolio he's just pulled out drips his intricate abstract images onto the floor. He's just moved in. "I'm thinking of turning the kitchen into my lab and hanging paintings in the bathroom — what do you really need a kitchen for anyway?"

Mario works two jobs and paints in brilliant, Mexican-inspired colors late into the night. The archetypal "starving artist" is alive and well in and around the Mission, he feels and, in response to the isolation of art, he has organized STARVING ARTISTS, a highly eclectic exhibition of paintings by eleven local artists. The show runs December 2 to January 9 at Pancho Villa Taqueria and Cafe Picaro, both on 16th Street between Guerrero and Mission.

It's not a particular artistic style or ethnicity which brings this group together, but a desire for community — and, as the press release delicately suggests, to provide "art to consume and be consumed by for end-of-the-century holiday giving".

The eleven artists have been culled together from Mario's cafe-going perambulations than from any formal process, and the diversity of the group is striking: where else can you see Tony Vaughan's eroticisms, Rebecca Black's stylized drawings and Catherine Betz's oils all under one roof — or two, should I say? They are trained and self-taught, from the Mission and from Mississippi. Despite their lack of formal liaison, several of the painters portray landscapes of the urban imagination, urban visions.

Nelson was showing slides of his work to a friend when he met Mario in a cafe in the Mission. He paints on found wood (sometimes with found ink) gathered from buildings and dumpsters around the city. Original nails are left intact.

"I'm from cities... I think my work pertains to cities. It has ancient elements," Nelson explains. "I'm taking leftover elements from the city and putting them back into something else, something that reflects a way of life." In the San Francisco Open Studio 1990 exhibit, Nelson showed his work in the dark, dramatically spotlighted from below. For this show, he may need to concede to taqueria ambience.

Niki Cousino, a recent S.F. State graduate from the Haight, explores the personal



PAINTING BY CATHERINE BETZ

identity in the metropolis in an interactive not-lying-flat-on-the-wall piece. It's an electronically rotating four-sided painting that is a meditation on Tcl-A-Dating in the age of advertising.

A rotating painting? By the espresso machine? "I feel it's important to include other settings that are out there. I've always had trouble with the gallery set-up. Usually it's the same crowd that comes; it's intimidating to the general public," says Niki. "In a cafe or restaurant you get a wider variety of people, without great expectations of what they're going to see."

Many of the contributing artists appreciate the informal feedback one derives from showing at cafes and other informal public art venues. This spirit, rare in today's commercial art world, is shared by John Weiss, a self-described average human being and Mission painter whose work is "realism bordering on surrealism but not quite either/or"; dream sequences that he is more concerned with having people enjoy

than in profiting by.

Michael Koch, a Mission painter whose works were also featured in San Francisco's "Open Studios 1990", revels in the unique West Coast sensibility that affords the freedom to incorporate different styles without pledging allegiance to one tradition. Absorbing "subliminal" sources of aesthetic

information ("a little Afro-Cuban percussion, a little Southwest, some counter-culture...") as it's easy to do in California, Koch's vivid oil pastels and acrylics evoke the power of organic African tribal cultures tempered by playful intrusions of modernity. Koch, who is Jamaican-Czech, describes his work as "Numbile irrationalism. What early canines dreamed. Prehorses losing extraneous toes." Curious?

Other artists being featured in the show are Arthur Koch, Patricia Keightley and Judith Lindbloom. Catch them on December 15th at the two-part opening reception, 7 to 9 PM at Pancho Villa and 9 to midnight at Cafe Picaro.

And now, with a flourish to starving artists everywhere, the group's statement:

"A fire-next-time sale. Fresh, def, biodegradable. Ramshackle arks on El Rio Oscuro de Suenos. Phosphorescent flora the drowned man dreams. Adopts of oblivion repair the automatic vending machine! Que bueno! C'est du vin de la vie ordinaire! Finally, a pot pourri with salsa caliente for your delectation. Like, is this the ritmo of dancers on the grave of post-modernism or what? Be there or be square, companero. "Minstrel galleons of Carib fire" will flicker polyrhythmically on your retina. The earth is a single organism, headily adrift. Some of its inhabitants are hungry and some famished. And no appetite is as discriminating as that of the tiger in your soul.

(Michael Koch)

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# BOYS' CLUB HAS THE RIGHT STUFF



FRIEND ATTACK PHOTO BY AL RIOS COLUMBIA PARK BOYS CLUB PHOTOGRAPHY PROGRAM

- by Kristy O'Rell

"Yeah, I had my time to travel around, but I knew sooner or later I'd be back here."

James Littlejohn, program director of the Columbia Park Boys Club, is explaining his almost nine-year absence from the prestigious San Francisco youth center. After leaving the club as athletic director nearly ten years ago to fly the friendly skies with the airlines, Littlejohn returned, last February, to his present position.

Affable and reflective, Littlejohn recalls his days at the Alameda Boys Club and the elders who left him the positive impressions he now extols. "Spending time at (the Alameda Boys Club) taught me a lot. For one thing, it kept me off the streets. It was a place to use my energy in a productive way, rather than destroy my future," he observes.

On this crisp Saturday afternoon, Littlejohn is about to engage me in a tour of Columbia Park's facility. Occupying the same building since 1955, its inception spans back to 1894. Back then, the Mission's once-gentrified, upper and middle class neighborhoods coveted the new building. Now, with a 50 percent Latino and 21 percent Afro-American membership the cultural standards have changed. However, basic ideals embedded in Columbia Park's history remain — giving a young boy (and, soon, on a regular basis, young girls) the opportunity to create, stay active and become involved in community events. Simply, gaining a sense of usefulness in a society disillusioned with the stakes of social contribution is difficult; at Columbia Park, kids are given the alternatives.

Littlejohn begins our tour at the gameroom designed for boys aged 7-12 years. The gamerooms (three in all) are divided in age brackets, the second for 13-15 year olds and the third for 16-18 year olds. All have pool tables, various table games and a TV (after all, The

Simpsons and Mutant Ninja Turtles cannot be compromised).

Littlejohn points to a brilliantly-colored mural stretching across the back wall of the game room, while emphatically boasting about special projects now and past that the boys have pursued. Regal grins and cool shots of composure cover the board display of the latest Youth of the Week, Youth of the Year, etc. back in the lobby.

Winding through the halls, Littlejohn fills me in about the newly renovated gym ("these guys are clawing at the doors, they can't wait!") and draws me through the locker room to the playground outside. "For three dollars a year, a kid can come in here and work on something, be it athletics, art, student leadership... we provided the equipment, the help and the flexibility," Littlejohn says. Emulating the big-brother-you-always-wanted-type of guy, Littlejohn takes a minute to carouse with a few teens before continuing this mini-expedition. Hey, this place is bigger than I thought.

Considering the unremitting plight for children nowadays, it's hard to fathom a \$550,000 operating budget for a non-profit organization like Columbia Park. A limb of the national Boys and Girls Clubs of America, Columbia Park receives most of its money through private and corporate donations, endowments and fundraisers. The club's most lucrative event, the Gap Clothing Sale, occurs every three months with sale items going for less than ten dollars.

"It started basically as a friend helping one of our directors back in the 70's. The owner of the Gap, which was only a few stores back then, would donate discontinued or imperfect clothes to sell. It became quite popular, just like factory outlets work. Now, the Gap has opened up their own outlet in San Leandro and charges us two dollars a garment," Littlejohn says. Shrugging, he adds, "it's still a deal, and we still make a lot for the club. I suppose (the Gap) wanted in on

the idea as well."

For a staff consisting of seven full-time workers, four part-time specialists and around 16 junior-staff members ranging from 14 to 18 years old, the 1,800 plus membership is not only something to be proud of, but something of worthy investment. The Fine Arts room on the second floor of Columbia Park is a prime example, displaying youth's sincere verisimilitude. Gaping at some of the hallowed expressions from some of the sculptures in the room, I realize these kids blew quite a few of my art college friends out of the water.

"Textiles, airbrush, woodblock, wood sculpture... you name it, we do it," says Fine Arts Director Bill Mayfield. "There have been quite a few kids out of Columbia Park that regularly go to win local, regional and national competitions with other clubs around the country. Columbia Park definitely has a reputation for being one of the top 10 Boys and Girls Clubs of America," Mayfield says. A youngster's attentiveness over a woman instructing origami seals your belief in Mayfield's word.

I later check out the airy, well-equipped Craftshop and Photo Lab, where boys can learn everything from lanyard lacing to copper enameling. For 30 cents, Littlejohn explains, a kid 10 years or older can rent out a camera, use 18 shots and have full access to the developing room. I should be so lucky with the way Fotomat handles my film.

The ideal atmosphere at Columbia Park feels almost too accessible, considering the foreboding statistics I've either read or I am witness to. Yet, it is here. Entering a quiet computer lab where a lone teen finishes up a final draft of a paper due in class on Monday, one could almost call Columbia Park a sanctuary. "We try to get the word out by having schools in the neighborhood come by to spend some time in the Craftshop or the Art room. Many parents are unaware of all we have to offer kids. I'll see one boy come in with a class and,

that same night, be back to hang around."

Eventually, Columbia Park's doors will be permanently open for girls too. "We're looking forward to turning this place co-ed," Littlejohn asserts, "but we don't want to be hasty about it. When the name was changed to Boys and Girls Clubs of America, many clubs tried to make the transition too quickly and ended up being ill-prepared for the changes. Not just structural changes like restrooms, but psychological changes with the kids. We want to set up the best possible environment."

Tradition plays a major role for Columbia Park, whether it's in the decision-making process of the Board of Directors or the day-to-day tasks for Littlejohn. Regardless, Columbia Park has proven that change can go hand in hand with tradition. One just has to glance at the yellowed photographs of yesteryear's all-white alumni on the walls to conclude progress has been made.

What Littlejohn calls a "slow filtration of immigrants" is not only the ethnic makeup of Columbia Park but of the Mission as a whole. And far from improvident, the eager regard for the mental and physical development of future generations is deeply rooted in these foundations at 450 Guerrero.

"We don't tell kids what to do, we simply point out the rules and say, OK, let's have some fun and be responsible for it," Littlejohn says. When the City can lend few outlets to vent a youth's energy, it's reassuring Columbia Park Boys Club still can.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE COLUMBIA PARK

BOYS CLUB, CALL 861-8232, OR DROP BY 450 GUERRERO BETWEEN 16TH AND 17TH STREETS. HOLIDAY HOURS ARE MON-FRI, 8 am - 6 pm, SAT 10 am - 2 pm. REGULAR HOURS ARE MON-FRI, 3 pm - 9 pm, SAT 10 am - 2 pm. CLOSED ON SUNDAYS.

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# LIFE ACCORDING TO JACK

## CLAUDIA LUNSTROTH TALKS WITH JACK MICHELINE

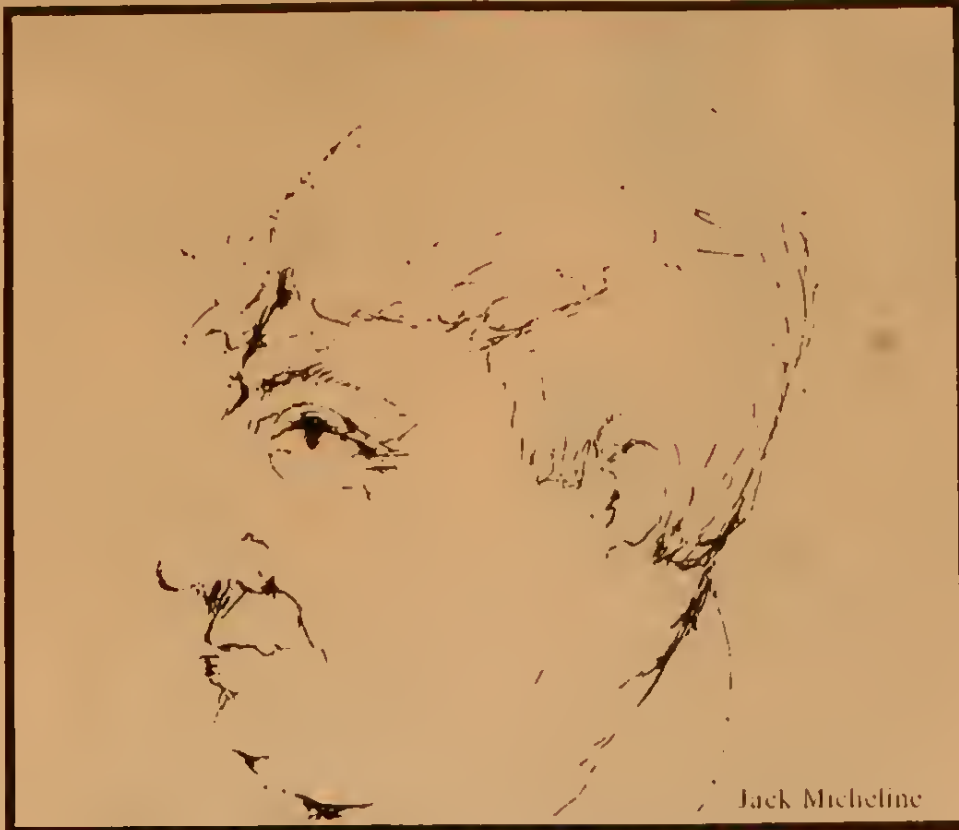
Jack Micheline is a poet and a painter, and a social critic whenever he gets the chance. He recently had an art show at Adobe Bookstore on 16th Street and is scheduled for a show at the Picaro Cafe in the Spring. He has published books of poetry and prose, and an autobiography. Some of his work is available at Adobe Bookstore and at Small Press Traffic on 24th at Guerrero.

C: When did you first start dealing with the galleries?

The first gallery I walked in the woman asked me what I want to be an artist for and I put every painting on her floor. She ran in the bathroom and closed the door. She wasn't interested in art. She's a sadist who wanted to get her kicks on masochists.

But (pause) I am a poet (slaps hands together) and a painter (another slap) for thirty years. My first book o' poems, River Red Wine,... Jack Kerouac, God bless 'im, may he fly in heaven, wrote an introduction to my first book. I create. The role of an artist is to create. The role of the artist is to keep going and to raise the light. To do the best he can and try to survive and grow as a human being, which is very difficult in America right now. It's difficult to survive and grow because the rents are so high. Feinberg gave the city to the landlords, him and Alioto. The artist must go where there's cheap rent so I'm leaving San Francisco.

I do like the Mission because the people are alive, they're unpretentious. They dance, they have good bars. People are not afraid to let it hang out. I like to walk in the Mission. And the sun shines in the Mission, more than in any other part o' town. I like the Mission 'cause it reminds me of New York. But I have to leave 'cause the rents are so high.



Jack Micheline

C: How long have you been in San Francisco?

I've been in San Francisco off 'n' on for 18 years. I do travel and give readings around the country. I was known as a beat poet, but the truth is I was a bohemian before they called me beat. Beat was a commercial thing: Ginsberg said we're beat writers. We're not beat, we're human beings. We sing, I sing to the beat. Lawrence Ferlingetti was never beat—he graduated from the Sorbonne. They all went to Columbia.

The beat writers came from the gossip columnist Herb Caen. The number one

gossip man in San Francisco coined a phrase "beatnik". He has nothin' t' do with me. He writes gossip and he makes half a million dollars a year. I write real stuff and I have obscenity trials. So what's the difference? He kissing somebody's ass and I'm just doin' my thing and not enriching the rich people. If you don't enrich the rich people, then you don't have a chance. But, I'm a poet and a painter. I do it all the time when I can.

C: How did you get started, back in New York?

Well, I started doing some poem

paintings in New York, in the late '50s, hut God bless him, Franz Kline, who was a dear friend of mine, wrapped eleven 100 dollar bills on my heart in an envelope and told me to go to Mexico, which I did. And I still have a lot of friends back there who are very gifted painters, Peter Deen, Red Grooms, Marty Paycheck.

All the great art is in the studios, not out in the galleries. All the galleries are going broke in NY. Thank God! About half of them are goin' out of business 'cause they can't pay the rent. Good for them. They been fuckin' the artist too long in America. They try to screw the artist real good; they take 50% and they come in with this shopping list of expenses. The artist can't even make a dime.

C: What about with your poetry?

The poetry don't make money. I love poetry, I love to write poetry, I love to read to poetry. I won the award, the Most Valuable Performance, at the Kerouac Festival in Boulder in 83. There were 250 people participate and I won the award. So you know I'm a good reader. I write if I feel it. I don't write that much any more.

Well anyway, I had a great show. An artist should show once a year, anywhere, anyplace, to get it out of their head.

C: You have shown almost once a year for a quite a while now.

I show even if it's a laundry. Even if it's a coffee house or a sandwich shop. The people see it, if they're lucky enough to see it. I don't like galleries. They museums feel like mortuaries, cemeteries. They don't celebrate life. The people who love art, who claim to love art, do not celebrate living. Most o' the

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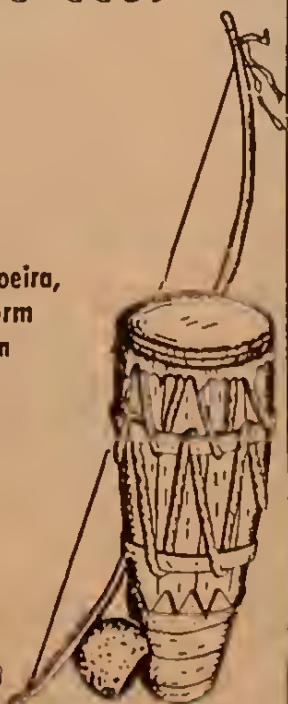
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art that's painted is dead art from dead people because they don't celebrate living.

My work is like a child. I kept my child alive. If you can paint like a child, consider yourself lucky. They got the Art Institute. Fifty thousand students went through that school in the last 15 years, but have produced nothing—a handful of artists. They don't teach'm how to be human, how to find out who they are. They teach'm bullshit! And these rich kids who were bored with life pay good money to go to that art institute. So the whole set up is to make money from art, is to hustle people and take their money, and to make it clean and safe. Great art is created on floors! and studios and kitchens and bathrooms and sidewalks. Great art is created by the man that creates the great art. The critics are bored; they don't create. The critic's going to criticize and not create. The whole system of the publishing world and the art world is based on profit motivation. It's not on creative spirit; it's not on romance; it's not on love; it's not on creativity. It's about making money. That's the system of America.

The business of America is business. Gover Cleveland said that. Harding, Cleveland...

They yes-no, yes, no. They don't know who they are, so they're like yo-yos. They're all scared inside. They're cut up in knots.

God bless the rebel in every country, in every land. God bless the people who are creative, who are happy, who dance and sing, who act, who are just beautiful. Shoemakers are beautiful—it doesn't matter. You can be a great poet and be a waitress, the way you serve the dish. The way you treat another human being, that's real poetry. Great poets are not people that write words. People who read words, live words, they're great poets. Millie the waitress, Monaco the barber, they're the great poets. The guy that gave me a haircut yesterday, with a smile, the way he cuts hair, he's a great poet o' the world. Nobody knows his name.

C: OK, so give us a great poem.

Give us a poem, Jackie-boy. Jackie-boy, Jackie-boy, give us a poem, Jackie-boy. OK. In the great style of George Jessel, I'll give you a poem. (Get's out book and reading glasses.) That was Kerouac's favorite singer by the way, George Jessel.

I got no smile 'cause I'm down  
I carry a horn to blow in all these streets  
A solo riff out of my head  
How could you ever know I feel  
So high on life and feet and ass and legs and thighs  
That I can rise and dance with all the stars  
And I can eat the moon and laugh and I can cry  
The dark caves of cities hungry streets  
The tired faces dark and dreary bent  
and all the death it dies  
I let it die  
I lift my horn and blow some sounds  
some soul for kids to come  
Some unborn sun  
in darker streets than mine  
Magicians carry wings so they can fly  
Let's blow a horn and love  
Let's get it on and ride  
and laugh and dance and jive  
Let's shake the dead and let the downers die  
The magic of the singers warms the earth  
A song  
A poem  
Some paradise of mind  
I got to smile now  
I'm feeling good  
The city street  
The palace of my mind

I don't feel that way in the city anymore. Course, that was written 22 years ago.

C: Is it the city? or you just getting tired?

The cities! I'm tired. It's hasn't got the magic for me anymore. I've been a street poet for 30 years. I'm lucky to be alive. Every day I'm alive, it's bonus.

But my work assimilated to the masses. I'm loved by the people. That's the only thing good that's happened to me. You can't find my work in a bookstore.

This country hasn't got a culture. It's only 210 year old.

C: You're saying you're not culture, your friends—

No! The culture is money and business. There's no real culture. When the chambermaid can quote Walt Whitman, can quote Jack Michalski—that's when there's a culture. When it goes down to the common man, when the art assimilates to the common man, then there's a culture. Otherwise, it's the dollar bill that's the culture.

Art is a way of life, it's a attitude. An artist has a way of life: the way he dresses, the way he moves his finger. The way he looks at the sky, the way he talks to people. The way he smiles, that's important. To be alive is a poem. To be a human being is a poem. A living poem, a dangerous poem, a poem of life. Make art shake off the wall. Make it dance off a page.



C: So who who influenced you?

Charles Mills, the composer, who wrote the Crazy Horse symphony and wrote the music for "On The Bowery." He was an influence. Franz Kline as a human being was a great influence. He has a great heart. James T. Farrow who was the best man at my wedding, who wrote *Studs Lonigan*, he was an influence in my life. Garcia Lorca, the great Spanish poet, who wrote a great book called *Poet in New York*. That blew my mind. Walt Whitman was an influence. Even Ginsberg's *Howl*, which was a great book, influenced me.

Coltrane influenced me. Charlie Mingus was a friend of mine. I won \$20 worth of jazz records at the Half Note in 1956. First award I ever won in my life, for jazz and poetry.

C: You won it for your poetry?

Reading my poetry with jazz. Nat Hentock, Gene Shepherd and Charlie Mingus were the judges. No, the first one I ever won in my life.

C: Have you ever played music? It's in your poetry.

I can play harmonica, I sing acapella. I've written 15 songs. I had a play done at Cafe La Mama in 1967. I wrote 12 songs for the play. I've written songs, I've written plays, I've written short stories. I wrote a book o' short stories I published myself in Harlem. It's called *In the Bronx and Other Stories*. I've done poem paintings. I've done almost everything but write a novel.

C: Are you planning that?

You can't plan nothing in life. I live a very immediate life. It's a natural act. Let the natural acts come. A person should be like a natural act. Don't worry about the teachers, your parents. Your mother lied, your father lied, your teachers lied, the rabbi lied. They never wanted you to be yourself. So if you want to be a gifted artist, be yourself. Be yourself. Be yourself. Be alive. Be exciting. All you have is moments in life. Be kind to children. Kiss the fat girl on the bus. Don't be ashamed to show your heart, to show your emotions.

C: Obviously, you get a lot from the beauty of life despite your cynicism.

Right. Even though all that commercial shit's all around. I see a lot o' beauty. Love the birds; look at the bird's, they're beautiful. Most people are not consistent. They're like yo-yos, they go in an' out, they don't know, they don't have a consistent flow, they're scared of their own feelings.

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# LA CUMBRE: A TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE

A couple of friends who go to school in a nowheresville Washington drove down to visit earlier this year. Out leading them around one day, I was so lost in my monologue that I didn't notice until half way down the block that no one was there. They were stopped in front of the newspaper hut on 16th and Valencia staring at the La Cumbre woman. She was smiling heartily into the wind, bandoliers wrapped around her breasts, and they knew her. Someone at school owned a T-Shirt, emblazoned with that body that says to the world "tasty burritos".

There was no way they were leaving San Francisco without eating at La Cumbre.

"People really like our girl, she's thought of fondly. In fact, she's like another family member," explains owner Eddie Duran. The clothing selection at La Cumbre threatens to create the possibility of owning a full burrito outfit and subliminal advertisements are slowly appearing on the backs of people all over the country. It's not surprising that mail order is an area in which La Cumbre does well.

In business for 25 years at the same location, this was San Francisco's first Taqueria. Duran, who probably took his first steps down at the Valencia Street landmark, has had plenty of opportunity to learn the secrets of running a successful business. These days with new taquerias appearing on every block in the Mission, the competition has become more acute and extra creativity is mandatory. How many taquerias have reader boards behind the



EDDIE DURAN (R) AND HECTOR MILLAN OF LA CUMBRE

counter, for example? Installed to entertain people in line, the board makes claims about the La Cumbre burrito's power as an aphrodisiac. There is no science to back it up yet but who's to say it couldn't be true. Just avoid the onions.

The minimal employee turnover at La Cumbre is evidence of the owner's commitment to please everyone involved in the burrito experience. To Duran, "team spirit"

among workers is just as important as the quality of each burrito component. He points to the beans, an important part of almost every menu item, which are cooked slowly for two days. "They should kind of melt like butter," he enthuses. Or like cheese. One of the high points of a La Cumbre meal is the smooth melt of cheese over all the ingredients inside the burrito and the fact that they go easy on the rice.

"We are made to serve the customer," Duran comments. "We have a strong Asian contingent and they have a fondness for rice in their burritos, as do a lot of other customers."

Without a doubt the most heavily requested item on La Cumbre's menu is the carne asada burrito. Just to the left of the line, thin slices of steak, newly browned, are rapidly reduced to manageable pieces by two huge knives, as little bits of meat fly into the plastic that protects the patrons from flying cutlery. Carne asada is the only specific item mentioned in the stack of clips handed to reporters by Duran. Everyone from professional food critics to performance artist Karen Finley feel that this alone is worth a special trip.

The newest addition to the La Cumbre meat group is a take on the success of the carne asada, the pollo asada. For those who want a change, but are too set in their ways to go for a vegetarian burrito, or people who are worried about what excessive steak will do to them, it's the obvious choice, and selling well.

People come from other states to eat here and probably to meet the charming Eddie Duran, who is usually up at the register, pictures of his relatives up on the back wall. It's a family run institution that is still thriving, far from being squashed by the multiplying competition. Don't you owe it to yourself to walk down the street and find out what's been happening in burritos for the past 25 years?

by Kirsten Voris

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# PANCHITA'S, NEW ON 16TH ST.

As Salvadorans move into the Mission, gracing the community the unique cultural riches of another hemispheric American culture, it has only been a short matter of time before the excellence of its cuisine has reached its own in the area, with a new restaurant likely to invite outsiders in, in the same manner as good Asian restaurants invite the outside world into the Tenderloin.

Panchita's, at 3091 16th Street is a one-in-one-hundred discovery with potential to become one of the best restaurants in the City. In its simple, spotless interior, it appears as a rising, but often overlooked example of the ethnic cuisine in the City.

The bright, colorful dishes show an adept familiarity with both home-style and haute cuisines. Chef Doris Campos learned the regional cuisines of El Salvador from her mother, who is a professionally-trained chef from San Miguel, and has been cooking for about a decade.

Although the comfortable Mexican dishes like tacos, enchiladas and chiles rellenos are available on the menu, and popular with the gringos for about \$4-6, the dishes to try are the Salvadoran ones.

For appetizers, there are several standouts. The Tamales Salvadoreños differ from Mexican tamales in that they are made with a lighter, finer Salvadoran masa, or corn flour. The version presented at Panchita's is a hot, steamy but not soggy tamale with all-white chicken, potato and Salvadoran-spiced filling.

Don't miss the Yucca con Chicharron (yucca with pork), at \$4.50. Yucca is a bland and starchy, if extremely nutritious staple throughout Central



PHOTO BY GENARO

DORIS CAMPOS AND ELOY VARGAS

America and the Caribbean, not usually very tasty. However, fried to just the edge of brown, in lemon, pepper and vinegar, without heavy greasiness, and colorfully blended with tomatoes, cilantro, cucumber, lemon and the dried pork on a bed of salad, its light tangy flavor can be likened to California cuisine, even as it is purely Salvadoran. California cuisine without the yuppie factor, that is, meaning meal-sized portions, and fairly priced.

The Casimero con Plantanos, an all-vegetarian dish features plantains, the unsugary relative of the banana, traditionally popular in the tropics, and is worth an order as well.

Both old and innovative dishes were tried from the main course selections. The crab enchiladas for \$6.95 were made from San Francisco dungeness crabs, and are light and fresh-tasting. They are made with an original recipe created by Campos. "We never use that fake stuff," (surimi), said Campos.

Seafood is an important element of Salvadoran cuisine, and Campos said her favorite dish on the menu to create is the Camarones Empazados, a dish of breaded jumbo prawns. "Create" is a good word for it as Campos grows the prawns herself in a kitchen tank to ensure the freshest, plumpest ingredients. "People order them

by the twenties," she said proudly. The dish is beautifully cooked with a fresh, spicy sauce and immensely colorful. It is well worth the \$10.95 price.

A word about several of the carne asada and bisteck dishes is to say that they avoid some of the overcooking and oversaucing of some other Salvadoran restaurants. Sauces tasted were noted to be spicy but not hot, nor overbearing, while steaks were tender and easy to eat without any visible fat.

Other traditional dishes to recommend included Lengua en Salsa (beef tongue in salsa) for \$4.75 and a carne desilchada for \$4.75.

A fine selection of beers and wines were available including some good Salvadoran Pilseners, in addition to traditional pina (pineapple), orchata (rice and cinnamon) and tamarindo (Arabian date) drinks, blended on the premises every day.

Doris Campos, in her first restaurant venture, is operating one of the most creative restaurants in the City, and we look forward to more of her brightly original as well as traditional dishes that showcase the cultural riches of El Salvador.

Tara Kramer

Panchita's, 3091 16th Street, between Mission and Valencia.

Hours: 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 p.m.  
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# LA BARCA: A SAVORY NEW ADDITION

The mural, a striking portrayal of Aztec god Cuauhtemoc is going up at La Barca, a shiny, new Mexican restaurant opening at 2367 Mission Street, in a run-down area now coming to life with good restaurants. Inside, Mexican lamps, Mexican music, and dreamy murals of a Mexican village and port in Jalisco, Mexico all conspire "to make you feel you are in Mexico," according to owner Kokyo Amin, whose first venture into the restaurant business includes a keen eye for attractive detail.

The restaurant, modelled along the taqueria-style of La Cumbre and others, is a welcome addition to this part of the Mission. Its head chef, Gonzalo Rosales is a six-year veteran of Pancho Villa's, and learned to cook in Guadalajara, Mexico in the years before that. Much of the food reflects the cuisine of Guadalajara, as well as Zacatecas, in central Mexico, according to Rosales.

"We make everything fresh every day," said Rosales, displaying the spectrum of available dishes. Tacos, burritos, enchiladas and other popular dishes are featured and served in the same format as similar establishments. La Barca, however, has a noteworthy edge, as its prices are noticeable less expensive. A regular, (and those are big) carne asada burrito goes for \$2.40, with smaller and

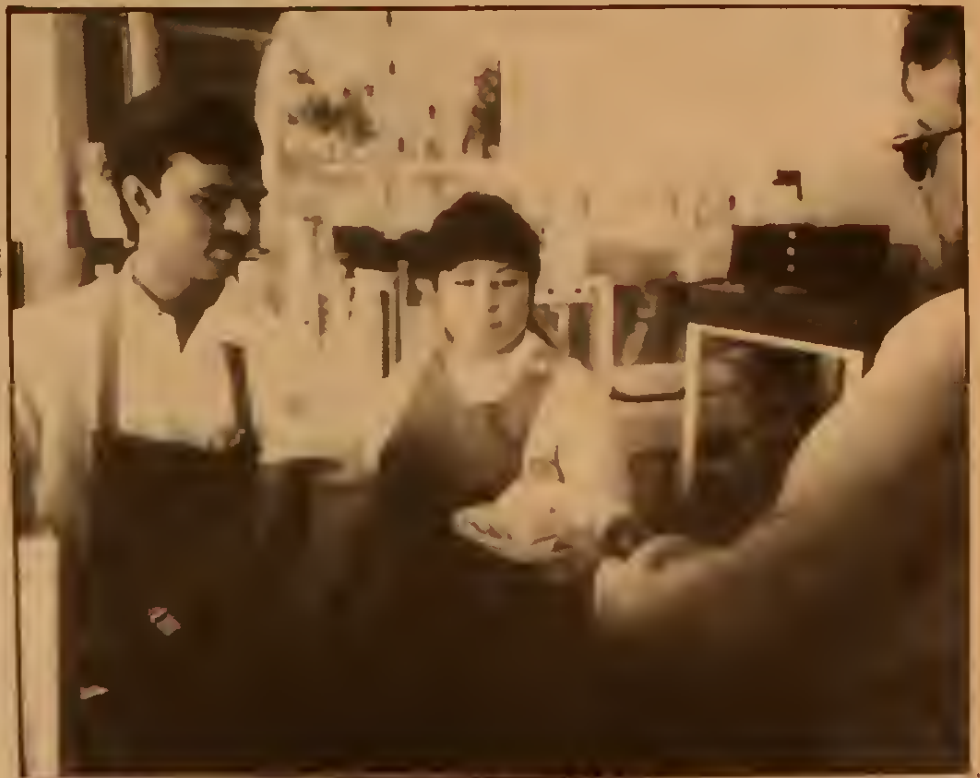
larger versions stretching from \$1.75 to \$5.25. Chicken, pork, and a variety of sauces are available for burritos. A can of soda to wash it all down goes for fifty cents.

The spotless, informal restaurant has a few innovations to distinguish it from its competitors. The *torta*, a Mexican sandwich, is composed of Mexican bread, carne asada, cheese, beans, salsa, sour cream and guacamole. It is the only known place north of 24th Street where it can be found. For something really good to drink, the *guayaba*, freshly blended every day, is a memorably refreshing, tangy juice made from the guava. A well-blended flavorful *horchata*, of rice and cinnamon, is also available. In addition, *jamaica*, the bright red cooler made from hibiscus flowers, and *tamarindo*, made from Arabian dates are also a delight.

Mexican cuisine is made fresh every day at La Barca. We tried the chicken full dinner, and found that the chicken was all white meat, and very plump and juicy. The refried beans, made every day, were flavorful and according to Rosales, the salsa is blended first thing in the morning. Guacamole, to ensure that it is fresh, is prepared two times a day from scratch. Even the chips are made on the premises each day, rather than bought.

Dinners run in the \$5-6 range and

PHOTO BY GENNARO



KOKYO AND MARIA PEREZ

are plentiful. They feature a variety of sauces and meats, and include Spanish rice, refried beans and tortillas. Service is friendly and solicitous, and a regular clientele was seen developing.

The familiar excellent cooking, and the neat friendly atmosphere make another solid contribution to daily life in the

Mission, even as it attempts to remind us of faraway Mexico. It is well worth a visit.

La Barca, 2367 Mission Street (at 20th Street).

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ALL SAINTS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH 1350 Waller St. (near Masonic) 621-1862	Bag lunch 12:30-12:45pm						Brunch 10:30-11:00am	
FOOD NOT BOMBS U.N. Plaza (Wed.-Sun.), Golden Gate Park (Mon.), Civic Center Plaza (Tues.), Mission & 6th St. (Thurs.) 330-5030	6:00-7:00pm U.N. Plaza fountain: north side of Market between 7th & 8th Sts.	12:00-4:00pm Golden Gate Park by Haight & Stanyan	12:00-4:00pm Civic Center Plaza by Polk & Grove	6:00-7:00pm U.N. Plaza fountain: north side of Market between 7th & 8th Sts.	12:00-1:00pm Mission & 6th St. by Delta Hotel 6:00-7:00pm U.N. Plaza	6:00-7:00pm U.N. Plaza fountain: north side of Market between 7th & 8th Sts.	6:00-7:00pm U.N. Plaza fountain: north side of Market between 7th & 8th Sts.	VEGETARIAN. Lunch: miso soup, rice & beans; often free produce & bread. Dinner: miso soup. CLOSED for Christmas Dec. 25
GLIDE MEMORIAL CHURCH 330 Ellis St. (at Taylor) 441-6501 (office), 771-2722 (crisis line)	8:00-9:00am 12:00-1:00pm	8:00-9:00am 12:00-1:00pm 4:00-5:30pm	8:00-9:00am 12:00-1:00pm 4:00-5:30pm	8:00-9:00am 12:00-1:00pm 4:00-5:30pm	8:00-9:00am 12:00-1:00pm 4:00-5:30pm	8:00-9:00am 12:00-1:00pm 4:00-5:30pm	8:00-9:00am 12:00-1:00pm	Bag dinners to go provided after lunch Sun. & Sat. Christmas meals Dec. 22, 25 8am-2pm; Dec. 24 11am-2:30pm.
HAIGHT-ASHBURY FOOD PROGRAM 1525 Waller St. (near Belvedere) 566-0366			Lunch 12:00-1:00pm	Lunch 12:00-1:00pm	Lunch 12:00-1:00pm	Lunch 12:00-1:00pm		VEGETARIAN alternative, volunteers welcome at 8:00am. Parents with kids eat at 11:30am. Christmas meal 12:00-4pm Dec. 25; call for location.
HOSPITALITY HOUSE YOUTH CENTER 146 Leavenworth St. (near Turk) 776-2102		Lunch 12:00-1:00pm	Lunch 12:00-1:00pm	Lunch 12:00-1:00pm	Lunch 12:00-1:00pm	Lunch 12:00-1:00pm		Only for youths under 20. Sandwich, juice & fruit.
LOAVES & FISHES McAllister & Leavenworth, by U.N. Plaza fountain 563-1605			Breakfast 3:30-7:00am	Breakfast 3:30-7:00am	Breakfast 3:30-7:00am	Breakfast 3:30-7:00am	Breakfast 3:30-7:00am	VEGETARIAN except some holidays. Soup, sandwiches, fruit, tea, vitamins, & pet food. Christmas meal Dec. 25.
MARTIN DE PORRES 225 Potrero Ave. (near 16th St.) 552-0240	Brunch 9:00-10:30am	6:00-7:30am	6:00-7:30am 12:00-3:00pm	6:00-7:30am 12:00-3:00pm	6:00-7:30am 12:00-3:00pm	6:00-7:30am 12:00-3:00pm	Lunch 12:00-3:00pm	VEGETARIAN alternative Wed & Fri. Breakfast: oatmeal & coffee. Lunch: a hearty soup. Holiday meals Dec. 22 12-4pm, Dec. 24 6-7:30am. CLOSED Dec. 25-Jan. 7.
MISSIONARIES OF CHARITY 1330 4th St. (at 3rd St.) 821-9687	Dinner 4:30-6:00pm	Dinner 4:30-6:00pm	Dinner 4:30-6:00pm	Dinner 4:30-6:00pm	Dinner 4:30-6:00pm	Dinner 4:30-6:00pm	Dinner 4:30-6:00pm	Soup & sandwiches. Christmas meal Dec. 25.
NEIGHBORHOOD BAPTIST CHURCH 608 Hayes St. (near Laguna) 621-8748							Lunch every last Saturday 12:00-2:00pm	
NINETEENTH AVE. BAPTIST CHURCH U.N. Plaza in front of old Federal Building (50 Hyde St.) 564-7721							Dinner every fourth Saturday 4:30-5:00pm	Soup, bread & fruit.
PRIMERA IGLESIA BAUTISTA DEL SUR 976 South Van Ness Ave. (near 21st St.) 647-1000	Breakfast every first Sunday 8:00-9:00am							A full breakfast.
ST. ANTHONY'S DINING ROOM 45 Jones St. (near Golden Gate) 241-2600	Lunch 10am-12:30pm	Lunch 10am-12:30pm	Lunch 10am-12:30pm	Lunch 10am-12:30pm	Lunch 10am-12:30pm	Lunch 10am-12:30pm	Lunch 10am-12:30pm	Showers, laundry, haircuts & other services available. Call 241-2688. Christmas meal 10am-4pm Dec. 25.
ST. JOHN'S AFRICAN ORTHODOX (ONE MIND TEMPLE) 351 Divisadero St. (near Oak) 621-4054	Lunch 3:30-4:30pm	Lunch 2:30-3:30pm		Lunch 12:00-1:00pm				VEGETARIAN. Sun & Mon: beans, rice, vegetables, salad & fruit. Wed: noodle soup & bread.
ST. PETER & PAUL CATHOLIC CHURCH 666 Filbert St. (off Washington Sq.)	4:00-5:00pm	4:00-5:00pm	4:00-5:00pm	4:00-5:00pm	4:00-5:00pm	4:00-5:00pm	4:00-5:00pm	"A simple sandwich for people of North Beach."
THIRD BAPTIST CHURCH 1399 McAllister St. (near Pierce) 923-0259					Lunch 1:00-2:00pm			Meat entree, vegetables, salad & dessert.
TRUE HOPE CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST 950 Gilman Ave. (near Griffith) 822-5626			Lunch 12:00-1:00pm					Guests asked to attend sermon 12:00-12:45; meal at 12:50. Meat, vegetables, bread & dessert.
UNITED COUNCIL OF HUMAN SERVICES Mini-park at Howard & Langton (near 7th St.) 822-5067							Dinner 4:00-6:00pm	Meat entree with vegetables.

We'd like your corrections, comments, or additions for our next monthly update. Please call 648-3222.  
This chart may be reproduced freely (but call first to make sure you have the most current information).



# HUMBUG SOLILOQUY

Christmas in the Mission, or how to use the neighborhood for holiday mirth:

*Make the Koban into a crèche scene.* Let's put it to use. We may have to fast-forward in Christ's life and have someone from 15th to act as Mary Magdalene, instead of having the Virgin Mary, but at least they both are named Mary. It's just that the former, being a prostitute, never got pregnant, and the latter, being a virgin, did. The miraculous season of Christmas.

The other advantage of turning the Koban into a crèche is that when a policeman was there, he could substitute for the Joseph-figure. Can't you have fun with the idea of somebody trying to stab someone in front of the Koban, and being arrested by the step-father of Christ! That would make Herb Caen's column: "'Leave it to my son to preach turn the other cheek' says deity's surrogate father as he wrestles wrongdoer to the ground, bursting a spleen or so."

*Roast chestnuts over torched building.* All the arson fires lately have put the Mission in a bad light, no pun intended. Let's turn these crimes into family affairs, like Family Feud. To really get into holiday cheer, we can throw in a few neighborhood lowlifes, like INS agents and skinheads (at least for the latter, we won't have to deal with that awful smell of burning hair).

*Get Ann Rice to rewrite the Santa Claus legend.* Just bring a little horror into it. Santa's sleigh can be drawn by rats, of which we have plenty. She can do a novel, *The Vampire Claus*. And it's not that far-fetched. I do believe Saint Nicholas was a priest, and not only do they drink blood, they waste good wine making it to do so.

*Convert the BART preachers to mimes.* Oh, I know, mimes have nothing to do with Christmas, but it sure would make my Saturday brighter if I weren't assaulted by the gospel of peace with megaphones. Forget *Silent Night*; how about *Silent Commute*?

*Determine what myrrh is* (you know, gold, frankincense and myrrh). Here's a word that looks exactly like what would be coming out of a 16th Street BART person's mouth if that area was ever honored with a comic book and a derelict got to chat in it, for one syllable. The word has no vowels, technically; it has two r's in a row, followed by an h. And some purported wise man gave this to the baby God as a gift; couldn't he come up with a good Anglo-Saxon word gift like *ale*! No wonder Jesus came to a bad end; he had bad birthday presents right from the start. So we hold a contest for the most creative definition of *myrrh*, the winner getting all rights to the word *rhythm*.

*No room at the inn.* In the spirit of the Holy Family's travails, let's pretend there's no affordable housing in the Mission! Oh, excuse me, I got carried away with my theme and just realized that doesn't happen just at Christmas. Sorry. I'll pay more attention from now on.

*Three Wise Men.* This will be real fun. Let's try to find 3 people who can make a coherent point about why they live here. Then let's steal their gold, frankincense and let them keep the myrrh, whatever the hell that stuff really is. Rip off their amulets instead. Someone in Marin will be stupid enough to buy them for a fairly decent price, so long as they contain a crystal.

*Cooked Turkey.* We're still stuffed from Thanksgiving. How about this? When we roast the chestnuts over the burning building, we use disgusting pieces of detritus to entice pigeons to the ground and slam dunk them into our happy, roaring, holiday spirit.

*Suicide.* The Christmas season sees a huge increase in suicides, which become especially painful for landlords. Instead of having these poor souls commit the sin of self-murder, let's march them around the Devil's Triangle (headquarters, 16th and Mission), and my neighborhood (headquar-



ters, 26th and Folsom) so that they can get murdered and die bereaved, and the assailants get it out of their system and then can make a New Year's Resolution to merely mug people. Everybody needs a job change.

*Midnight Mass.* What better time to go to church than when you're ready to go to sleep? When the priest starts his sermon you can justify, "Hell, I rarely can keep awake for Carson/Letterman at this time, and at least they're funny." You get to both feel holy and take a nap. It really is a once in a year experience.

*Relatives.* A group of people you normally wouldn't be associated with, except for the fact that you have to because you owe them money because they're much

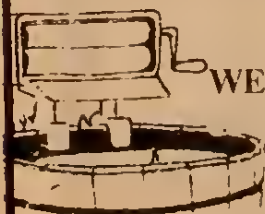
more successful than you are; that's why you're living in the Mission. But you have to get together with them, and they always bring up an embarrassing story about what you did when you were five years old. Use Christmas to your advantage. I say, "When Jesus was five years old, he confounded the elders in the temple. That's what I was trying to do when I swore in front of the priest." They'll believe you; they haven't read the Bible, so they don't know Jesus didn't do that until he was 12. But I just couldn't wait until 12; I was precocious, and not the Son of God, given to patience.

Merry Christmas! Happy New Year!  
by Don Stevens

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# Health Views



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## What Causes Back Pain?

Aside from headache, backache is America's most common health complaint.

Mr. Jones' car was bumped from behind. He suffers back pain. Mr. Miller lifted a heavy box at work. He suffers back pain. Mrs. Boswell is expecting a child. She suffers back pain.

Not all back problems are due to severe strains or dramatic accidents. There are times when a relatively innocent act such as stepping off a curbstone or lifting a pencil from the floor is sufficient cause for back pain. Unexpected, awkward and off-balance movements of any kind can cause back pain and sciatica. This is because the pain may be the symptom of a spinal disorder compounded by structural weakness.



Pains of mysterious origin may be caused by spinal insults. Sometimes the symptoms of the back problem appear immediately, allowing the victim to correlate cause and effect. However, sometimes days or even months pass before pain appears, causing the victim to seek treatment for conditions other than the causative spinal disorder.

Persistent or recurring aches in the lower back and limbs may suggest a possible lower spinal or pelvic problem. This often requires a structural correction of the cause in order to relieve the condition. Although drugs may hide the pain temporarily, the spine and sacroiliac must be aligned to its proper position for normal function.

If you suffer from back pain, it would be wise to consult a doctor of chiropractic. He has made a special study of conditions related to the sacroiliac, spine and nervous system. He seeks to not only locate the problem and give relief from symptoms, but also to correct the fundamental cause as well as offer preventive, rehabilitation, and maintenance counsel.



## HEALTH - A NATIONAL PRIORITY

The cost of health care in the U.S. has risen rapidly in the last few decades and will continue to rise in the nineties. An effective solution to this problem must involve a national commitment to improve the poor state of health of the American public.

Although we have achieved greater longevity, Americans suffer increasingly from lifestyle-induced disorders. Billions are spent annually to treat these largely preventable conditions. In addition, the economic decline has made health care unavailable to growing numbers of Americans who live below or near the poverty line.

Good health stems from information, education and prevention. An ill-informed public makes poor choices and decisions about personal health. The average American does not consider the cause/effect relationship between lifestyle and health. The prevailing societal attitude is that much disease occurs randomly without cause or explanation, and that the aging process is inevitably accompanied by degeneration of physical and mental capacities.

Our educational institutions have failed to teach health awareness to our children. Health classes, where they exist, teach outmoded concepts which perpetuate misinformation about food and nutrition. Physical education classes, presented in a rigid, authoritarian manner, alienate children and deny them the opportunity to experience the pleasures of building physical strength. School lunch programs provide meals high in fats, sugar and refined food, and many school buildings house soda and candy vending machines.

A growing percentage of American

children are overweight and sedentary, spending more hours in front of the T.V. than in the classroom. Unfit children become unfit adults with a high incidence of heart disease, diabetes, cancer, arthritis and other conditions which are expensive to treat and cause immeasurable pain and suffering.

We cannot examine the status of American health without taking a critical look at the role played by the tobacco and alcohol industries which, through the media, market lethal products. Up to 45% of highway deaths involve alcohol; smoking related deaths are completely preventable. Alcoholism affects millions of Americans, and is also a factor in half of all suicides. Yet we allow these two substances to be glamorized, directly and indirectly, in the media and in advertising. (The tobacco industry continues to receive government subsidies.)

Creating a physically and emotionally healthy population will require commitment, determination and a serious examination of our national values and priorities. A country with our intellectual, technological and financial resources is capable of achieving this goal. We have a defense industry, a space exploration program and a Star Wars program; we can also have a program devoted to improving national health through prevention and education.

by Lisa Berkelhammer, C.A.

Lisa Berkelhammer is a State and National Board Certified Acupuncturist/Herbalist and Nutrition Consultant. She maintains a private practice on Russian Hill and may be reached for further information at (415) 474-0540.

## EYE CARE

by Chester Quan, O.D.

### ATHLETES & EYECARE

How well do you think you'd be able to perform your favorite sport if you were blindfolded? Would you be as confident? Enjoy yourself as much? All sports enthusiasts — from weekend athletes right on up to the pros — depend on their visual skills to play well and to win. Whether you're serving a tennis ball, making a putt or skiing down a powdery slope, your body relies on your vision to help guide nearly every move. It's easy to forget that the eyes you so strongly depend on are fragile and surprisingly vulnerable to damage.

Sports-related eye injuries are increasing as more people of all ages turn towards recreational sports for fun and exercise. According to the National Society to Prevent Blindness, some 40,000 such injuries

are reported each year. Ninety percent of all sports-related eye accidents could be prevented.

If you ski, prolonged exposure to ultraviolet (UV) light reflected off snow or ice can lead to snow blindness, a painful sensitivity to light caused by inflammation of the cornea. The American Optometric Association (AOA) recommends that a skier wear goggles or sunglasses with maximum UV protection, selecting the shades for the region in which they'll be used. Light tints are more appropriate for the flat light of slopes in the eastern U.S.; dark tints are better suited to the intense sunlight of the slopes here in the West.

by Chester Quan, O.D.

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# MISSION DISTRICT CALENDAR DECEMBER 1990

#### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1

**Big Fish Story** pays homage to choreographer Kate Foley's Yugoslavian ancestors in Tacoma, Washington with music, video, film, passion, polkas and 5 "virtuosic" dancers performing short pieces such as "Uncle Frank's Funeral Flowers" in "settings of pristine natural beauty which include displays of fish, wild game, guns and hunting dogs". Rowfff! Footwork, 3221 22nd Street, 8:30 PM. Admission \$8 (824-5044).

**Midnight Marsh** at Cafe Beano Stephen Phenix' "Texans and their Guns", travel to a mental asylum where Charles Whitman, Lee Harvey Oswald and John Hinckley Jr. play Trivial Pursuit. Also gay, Jewish and group therapeutic comedians. 878 Valencia, 10:30 PM. (641-0235), also 8th, 15th and 22nd (with the Spoons).

**Brain Rust** plays post-industrial music at Studio Four, 2702 18th Street at York with Rotodoti and an unnamed but interesting "collection of musicians". \$3, (863-0582).

#### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2

**Psychotronic Movie Series** at the Roxie (16th and Valencia) through Tuesday. Today... Beatniks! Monday... Zombies! Tuesday... Motor Psychos! (863-1087) for films and times.

#### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4

**Green Women Gather** at the Women's Building, 3543 18th Street. Women and representatives from women's organizations are invited to attend to hear about the Green Party and to express their views on women's issues and perspective. 7:30 PM (255-2940).

**Salvadoran Photographs** by Adam Kufeld shown and books signed at Modern Times, 968 Valencia. 8 PM, Free, (282-9246).

#### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6

**Kicking Sand in the "Playground of Capitalism"** a forum sponsored by Democratic Socialists, Communists, magazines and such analyzing local and global economic factors. Presenters include a geography professor, an African-American political activist and a labor organizer for the Plant Closures Project. Women's Building, 3543 18th off Valencia, 7:30 PM (861-6968)

**Saving the World in Three Nights** from breast implantation, veal, the death penalty and other inconveniences are Liz Ozol, post-modern dancer/monologist and Hank Hyena, slide show satirist and puppet provocateur. 1800 Square Feet, 719 Clementina near 9th and Folsom, 8:30 PM. \$4-8 (773-8706) also 7th and 8th.

**Love, Debra** is a novel about a teenage prostitute and her relationship with a hotel night desk clerk by Chicago hotel night desk clerk Fritz Hamilton who has also found time to write and publish over 1,000 poems. Meet Fritz and shake his... uh... hand at Modern Times, 968 Valencia, 8 PM (282-9246).

#### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7

**Local 6**, dance, theatre and new performance by... surprise!... six local artists at Footwork, 3221 22nd near Mission. \$7 (824-5044), also 8th.

**Judith Kate Friedman** returns to her hometown San Francisco with "new songs honoring Jewish heritage, the beauty of women and the power of community" at the Artemis Cafe, 1199 Valencia. \$6-8 (821-0232). Wheelchair accessible.

#### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8

**St. Nicholas Fair** sponsored by the Parent-Teachers Organization of Mission Dolores School. "Christmas in early San Francisco celebrating our own ethnic diversity." 10 AM to 6 PM, 3371 16th Street between Church and Dolores, (621-6829).

**Celebration of Craftswomen** the 12th annual fair showcasing over 150 women artists and craftswomen at Fort Mason, 10 AM to 6 PM. \$4.50 to \$10 (free for children under 12 and seniors). Also 9th, 15th and 16th, (431-1180).

**Killing Some Arabs** film collage of Arab stereotypes in the mass media and a salute to the Intifada at ATA, 992 Valencia. 8:30 PM, \$5, (824-3890).

**Posthumous Book Launching Party** at Intersection to celebrate the release of Karen Brodine's "Woman Sitting at the Machine, Thinking". Video, poetry, hors d'oeuvres and dessert. \$6.50, 446 Valencia at 16th, 7 PM, (864-1278).

#### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9

**Holiday Potluck Brunch** for gay men over 60 sponsored by Gay and Lesbian Outreach to Elders. Bring a "main dish or finger food" (?) to 145 Guerrero, noon to 3 PM (626-7000) so you'll be full and rested before heading down the street to check out...

**Notorious Flagburner**, Joey Johnson whose case went to the Supreme Court brings his lighter fluid to the Victoria Theater as part of the "Fear Nothing/Be Down for the Whole Thing Tour" sponsored by the Revolutionary Communist Party. Plus national spokesman Carl Dix and Sasha, "a ferocious woman revolutionary who has been driving the L.A. police department crazy." 2 PM, (848-1196).



## TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11

**Women and AIDS** a co-production of the SF AIDS Foundation and Spanish-language radio station KIQI featuring health professionals from the Latino community. 10 AM on KIQI, channel 1010 AM.

**Socially Responsible Career Fair** will point students "in the direction of careers with socially redeeming value" at New College, 777 Valencia 12:30 - 3 PM (626-0884).

## THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13

**Haitians: The Other Boat People** discussion, slides sponsored by Amnesty International at Eye Gallery. \$4, 1151 Mission, 7:30 PM (441-3733).

**Mandala**, an evening of performance "tracking the ecstatic journey of three young Euro-American men seeking an initiation into the world of their fathers" and creating rituals "of sweat, breath and blood" Presented by Contraband and Theater Artaud at 450 Florida, 8:30 PM, \$10. (558-8821). Opening night is a benefit for Men Overcoming Violence (M.O.V.E.), also 14th, 15th and 16th.

## FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14

**Eat a Croissant, Go to Jail!** with Food Not Bombs at about their 119th breakfast bash and conspiracy trial beginning 8 AM. 850 Bryant near 7th, follow the crumbs to Department 16.

**Deck the Halls With Three Day Notices** Old St. Mary's Housing Committee serenades the Board of Realtors with odd carols 4:30 PM, 301 Grove in the Civic Center. Come as your favorite Dickens ghost. (398-0780)

**Holiday Art Sale** hosted by Creativity Explored, the only full-time visual arts center for disabled adults in the city. 6 - 8:30 PM, 3245 16th Street, (863-2108).

## SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15

**Construction Benefit** for Studio Four, 2702 18th Street at York. Anti-traditional music and art by anonymous "underground" community types. No admission listed either, maybe they'll trade for a pound of nails or plaster or a couple of two by fours. (863-0582)

## TUESDAY, DECEMBER 18

**Kids' Holiday Sing-Along** in Spanish and English with Jose Luis Orozco at the Mission Branch of the San Francisco Public Library. 10:30 AM, 3359 24th Street, (695-5090).

## WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19

**City of Quartz** discussion by Mike Davis whose new book points to a Los Angeles of the future "in which the sublime and the dreadful are inextricable". Modern Times, 968 Valencia, 8 PM for all youse bladerunners (282-9246).

## THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20

**Tree Decorating** Come help make ornaments and decorate the Mission Library's tree. 3:30 PM, 3359 24th (695-5090).

**Solstice** a three day winter ritual of "movement, voice, drumming, ritual training and creative process for confronting male violence, homophobia and emotional/creatively blocks" sponsored by Contraband. \$75 - 125 for all youse rich gay bashers... call 558-8821 for info and reservations.

## FRIDAY, DECEMBER 21

**Another, probably cheaper, solstice** celebration for lesbians over 50, sponsored by GLOE. 7 PM, call Pat for details at 626-7000.

## SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22

**Spoonful' o' beans.** Mark Petrakis (Spoonman) and daughter Alexis (Teaspoon) raise some "snakes of Christmas Past" along with the rest of the Marsh-mellos at Cafe Beano, 878 Valencia, 10:30 PM. (641-0235). Hissss...

**Somber Accommodations, Moist Heat and Ballistic Psychology** are some of the short films by local artists playing at ATA's annual calendar climax. 998 Valencia, 8:30 PM, \$5, (824-3890).

## MONDAY, DECEMBER 24

**It's MistleTow Time** at City Tow, where all of youse drunk drivers can get towed home free. Just call 558-7400 Christmas Eve, Day and New Year's too!

## ONGOING:

**Reasonable Fear** a photo exhibit from El Salvador, Ethiopia, Haiti and other oppressive places will be at the Eye Gallery through the 22nd. Exhibitors include News photographers Jeanne Hallacy and Fuminori Sato. 1151 Mission near 8th Street, (441-3733).

**Unsilent Nights** call it poetry or the post-modern "Spoken Word", whatever it is there's almost as much of it in the Mission as North Beach. Readings are held regularly at places like New College, Cafe Babar... even Slim's. Schedules can often be picked up in free publications like Howl and Poetry Flash, two local ventures are the Sunday night series at the Paradise Lounge (11th and Folsom, 8 PM, free) and the "Spoken Word Savages" who infest Cafe Beano Fridays (878 Valencia, 10 PM, \$3 cover).


### Paradise Sundays:

- 2 - SF Women's Writers' Workshop
- 9 - P. W. Stevens, Simon Alexander
- 16 - Tory Müller, Michelle C.
- 23 - Julia Vinograd, Kim Nicolini
- 30 - Kurt Cline, Alan Kaufman
- Beano Fridays
- 7 - Julia Vinograd, Sparrow 13
- 14 - David Lemer, Daniel Higgs
- 21 - Bana Witt, Dominique Lowell
- 28 - John Longhi, Mel Thompson

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**ALMANAC:** For those of us living north of the equator this is the darkest time of the year. The powerful mysteries of nighttime surround our lives with symbols of darkness. We should not fear the darkness for it provides us with the perfect balance to the long lost days of summer. Planet Earth is a place where the rock'n'roll of nature brings us back and forth between polarities of all sorts. The Solstice (longest night of the year) occurs on the 21st. There are Full Moons on the 1st and the 31st. And Mercury will be retrograde from the 15th until January 4th.

**ARIES (MAR 21-APR 19):** While friends and family seem especially distraught with this year's Christmas routines, you appear as the jolly old Saint Nick who brings visions of security and gifts of prosperity to those who have stayed on your good side throughout the year. Shower your magic upon those far and near. You may have to travel a long distance to make a special offering to someone you love. By the way, business is booming; your love affair is glowing; and life itself couldn't be better.

**TAURUS (APR 20-MAY 20):** The Christmas lights and all the social excitement don't mean much to you this year. You are retiring to your love affair with such passion and commitment that all else becomes meaningless and bothersome. You and your lover are snuggled up and ready to face the political crises and the economic down-turns. The love which unites you leaves no room for relatives or friends for the holidays. This Christmas is just for you two.

**GEMINI (MAY 21-JUN 20):** One of Santa's little helpers has been tempting and teasing you with suggestions of commitment in relationship. It is time for you to make the big move. Open your heart and home to this person's friendship - always being careful not to upset any well-established relationships. The pleasures of this Christmas will not come in expensive, gaudy gifts or energy-wasting decorations. Your Christmas is blessed with one or two new friendships which will last for many, many years.

**CANCER (JUN 21-JUL 22):** Keeping yourself busy in Santa's workshop will be no problem this year. The general economy may be in horrible shape and the global crisis may have everybody else shaking in their boots, but you seem so wrapped up in your work that you don't even notice. You're going to clean up this Christmas; your little trinkets are the hottest things for sale. PS: There could be some bad flus and colds going around in your household; use all preventative measures to insure your own good health.

**LEO (JUL 23-AUG 22):** To escape from the madness of the holiday scene is essential this year. You are on the verge of discovering your truest, natural talents and all the jingle bells would just distract you from this most important pursuit. Withdraw into your own santa-free world and make final decisions about what you want to be or what you want to become. These decisions will affect the next fifteen years of your life. It's a time to get serious about your creative skills.

**VIRGO (AUG 23-SEP 22):** You'll be hanging your stockings by the chimney with care with the hope that Saint Nicholas will soon be there. Business couldn't be

worse, your economy is stretched beyond all limits, and the social scene just doesn't have the same old holiday spirit. Make this Christmas a private family affair. Celebrate the love in your home. PS: If a better deal for housing appears, take it even if it feels strange to move at this time of year.

**LIBRA (SEP 23-OCT 22):** On Dasher and Dancer, Prancer and Vixen! This Libra has got some travelling to do for the holidays, and there won't be much time to sit around the Christmas tree with nothing to do. Several short trips will keep you bouncing from one family to another. Let yourself become the vagabond bringing holiday joy in exchange for a place to stay for two or three days. You may not feel settled down until well after New Years.

**SCORPIO (OCT 23-NOV 22):** You may feel a little bit like Uncle Scrooge this Christmas but you must be honest and admit that your financial situation simply cannot afford the extravagance of gift-giving or the luxury of celebration. But the message of Christmas isn't about spending money at big corporate department stores. You have a deep and lasting love which you want to share heart-to-heart with the special people in your life. PS: Financial decisions made this month will have an impact on the next year; pinch all your pennies.

**SAGITTARIUS (NOV 23-DEC 21):** You may end up spending Christmas in a foreign land in a foreign land among people with very strange attitudes and viciously critical opinions. You show up like a country bumpkin, full of holiday spirit and good vibrations. You are the light of the Christmas season. Naturally when you are shining so brightly the surrounding conditions will appear all the more dark. Banish cynicism, Confront despair. Don't let any of your friends slip in the slime of self-pity. It's OK to put your reputation on the line this Christmas.

**CAPRICORN (DEC 22-JAN 19):** The ghosts of Christmases past come crawling out of the woodwork this month. Old lovers show up, bill collectors and salesmen pester you on the phone, and memories of what Christmas used to be remind you of how old you've gotten. Take faith, Santa Claus will not forget to put a special present under your Christmas tree. Who is this Santa Claus? It's your wonderful lover for whom you should be truly grateful. He/she will make all the difference this season, just watch and see.

**AQUARIUS (JAN 20-FEB 18):** Christmas is usually an inspiring time of the year for you as you get a head start on making plans for the coming year. It's difficult for you to keep your heart and soul focused on the holiday celebrations because your long-term vision of the future precludes the present scene. While family members may be slightly put off by your lack of interest, professional business associates express great excitement with your initial plans. You're much more "in the spirit" at work than at home. That's OK this year.

**PISCES (FEB 19-MAR 20):** What with the economic problems and political crises, the pressure upon the gentle Pisces could be a bit much to hear. But you don't want to dampen the holiday celebration with your worries and fears, so fake it. Pretend like you're Santa Claus, a jolly, roly-poly character who loves to make people happy. Prance around in the delusion of perfect well-being. Others will be so grateful for the comic relief.

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# SILENT NIGHT DEADLY FRIGHT

- by Frank Deadbeat

Pulling guard duty on Christmas Eve was just the sort of thing Private Madison had learned to expect from the army. "Be all you can be, my ass," he thought, wondering why God in his wisdom had deployed him in this forsaken waste. For oil? To "stop aggression"? Bullshit. The men knew why they were here: to kill those murdering Godless towelheads, those soulless sand-rats who didn't even celebrate the birth of Christ!

But even that didn't seem like a good enough reason tonight. While the others were opening gifts and cards from home - some singing off-key carols in their tents and prefab barracks - he was alone under a dome of stars, a million of them, more than he had ever seen. They gazed down coldly, as the moon gazed down, palely illuminating crests of dunes and casting shadows in the sandy folds... shadows black as oil. "Silent Night" the men were singing now as sand crunched gently under his boots. One step, two steps... nineteen, twenty... this year he'd be twenty... turn around... a sideways step and he was undercover, hidden by the latrine tent.

Cover was hard to come by in the desert - thought not as hard as brandy egg nog or an Irish coffee. Other things were easier to find, at least in town. He bent down quickly, pulled the kief cigarette from his boot. A flash from grandd's Zippo... one puff, two puffs... save the rest for later. Wonders how mom and dad are doing - tasting guilt as he exhales the smoke. Sorry, Jesus, but these camel jockeys won't even let us have a glass of wine to celebrate your birthday, so...

Retracing his steps, the moon at his back and his shadow in front of him, he saw a flash in the sky. Rifle in his hands immediately, pointing up at - what? Nothing up there but stars. Once very bright star right in front of him, he



noticed, and wondered why he hadn't noticed it before. No one was singing now, but somebody was whistling very loud - "O Little Star of Bethlehem"? Shouldering his rifle, shaking his head, *navv*, he smiled, "it couldn't be". A million million stars up there, it would be easy to miss one, even one that bright, he told himself - and then noticed his second shadow.

Was *that* there before? Man, this was killer hash. So killer he did nothing, alerted the one, only stared at the three non-personnel emerging from behind a sand dune about a hundred yards distant. Three Arabs, they looked like. Three sil-

houettes in robes, head-rags, staves. They were striding evenly across the static sea of sand. Bedouins maybe? On foot?

Moonlight, starlight glinted on the golden threads of filigree that adorned their robes. Their shadows strode before them, black as oil. Their shadows faded as the star grew brighter - or maybe it was growing *closer* - maybe not a star at all. A U.F.O.? An angel? Funny how calmly he could speculate about all this' he wasn't scared, couldn't feel his heart beating fast or anything like that, not anything like that at all except it seemed he

hadn't *breathed* in several minutes.

The figures approached, the whistling grew louder, the star swallowed the moon. He didn't call for anyone; why bother? They should all be able to see for themselves that the desert was as bright as day, and if they'd only come out of their tents they'd even see the three old camel jockeys (sans camels) walking straight into the compound... one step, two steps... waving their arms at the young private as if to warn him of something... nineteen, twenty... The light illuminates their pale white skulls, the star descends, night blazes bright -

As the first combat casualty of the Iraqi War, Private Madison was posthumously awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor. His parents were invited to dinner at the White House, which they eagerly accepted, proud of their son at last. The fact that the shell which killed him was launched accidentally was hardly mentioned, even by the press; by Christmas Day, U.S. forces were in full retaliatory swing. And because he died on a holy night - because he had been blown to kous-kous while "doing his duty" and had never even had a chance to open his Christmas package, the army promoted to O.M.: Official Martyr. "For Madison!" the troops would yell, while mowing down a front line of unarmed Iraqi teenagers.

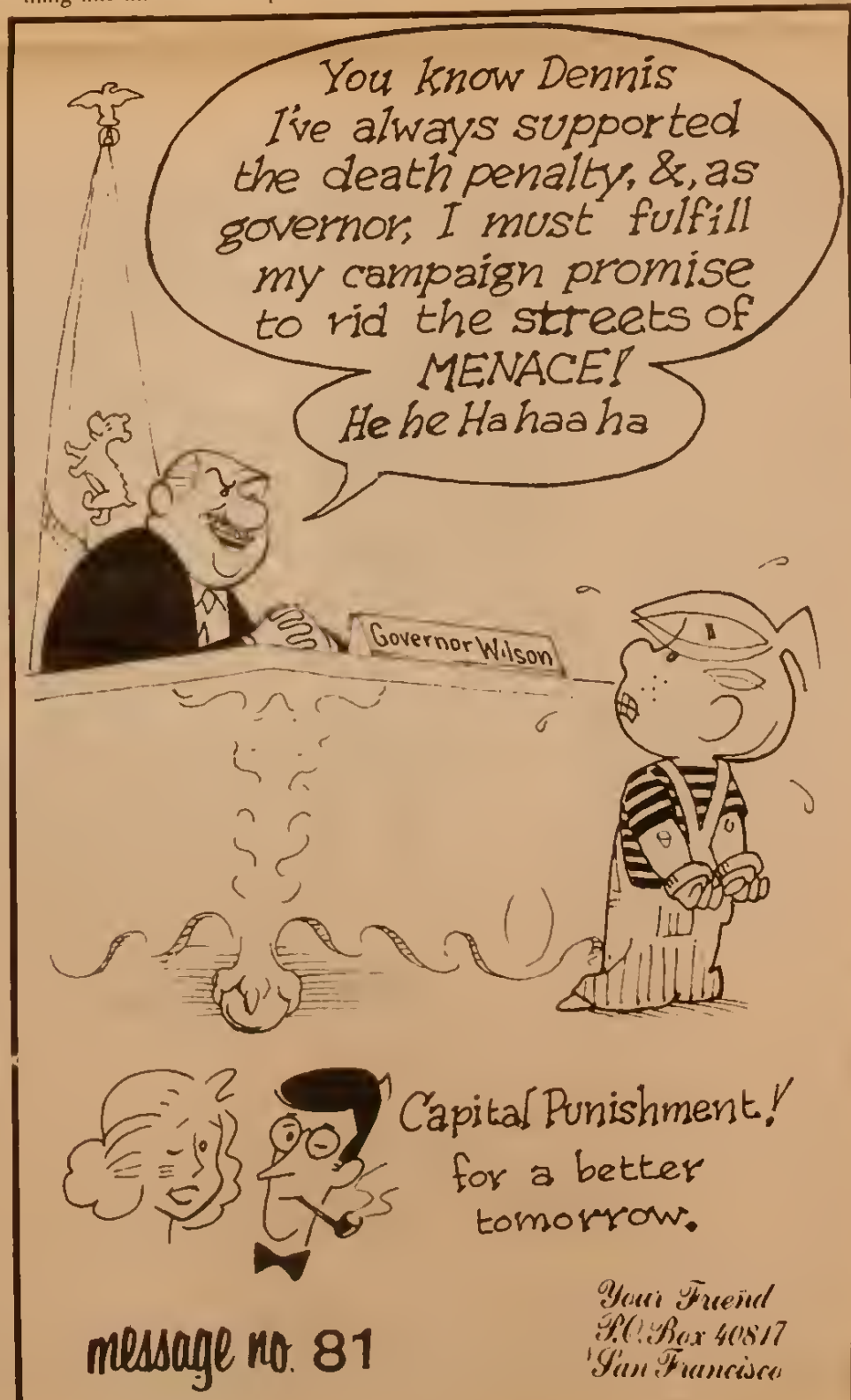
Years later, in Bethlehem, after Iraq and several other Moslem nations had been bombed back to the neolithic age, a shrine was dedicated to his name and slivers of his bones interred therein. The three badly burned skeletons found near the shell crater on the night of Madison's martyrdom were never identified, though by their tattered robes they were guessed to be Arabs, perhaps terrorists. Their bones were mingled with the refuse of the camp and later dug up by a tribe of jackals on the eve of another Holy War.



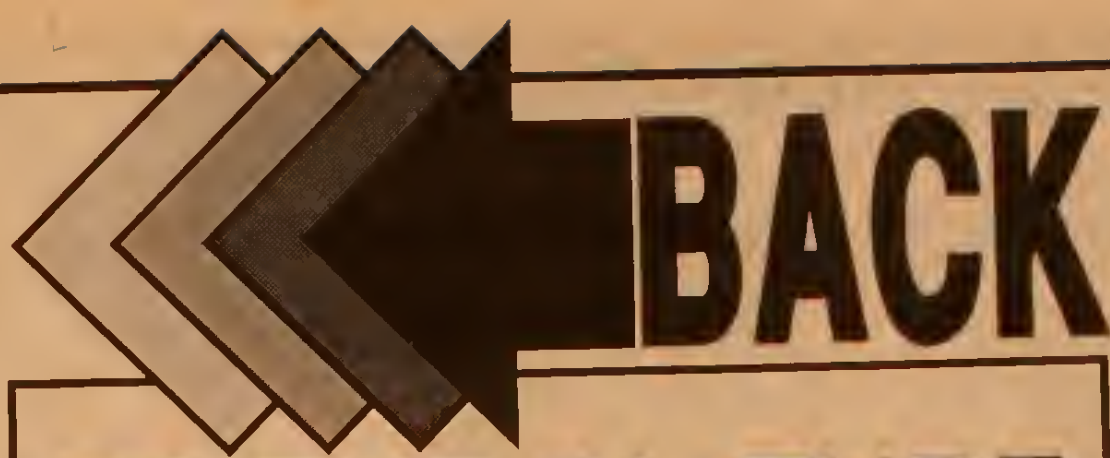
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